Tenchi Muyo! Ryo-Ohki

One Visitor After Another: Hexagram of Love

by Naoko Hasegawa

Illustration: Masaki Kajishima

TenchiForum
Translations

TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI

ONE VISITOR AFTER ANOTHER : HEXAGRAM OF LOVE

"You coward"
Ayeka rose,
and ran away.

Ayeka was under the control of an evil spirit,
and when she casually
came across a
dead man,
for an instant,
a smile of
victory
appeared on her
face.

The Hasegawa Translation Project is:

Nil Admirari
Crazed
Shadowsfall0
JGZinv
WisperG
&
Dagon123

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Ryo-Ohki
-
One Visitor After Another: Hexagram of Love

by
Naoko Hasegawa

Fujima Fantasia Collection

Front illustration:
Masaki Kajishima

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Hiroyuki Horiuchi
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Hawaii Vacation
Midsummer's Eve
The Stable Bride
Good Health Breathes Disaster
Dreamscape

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"Happy New Year"

"Current Feelings?"

"What's going on here……..!?"

"This is called an Ansible."

"The Kagato case, and resolution!"

"Ayeka!"

The Banquet began.

"There is no Ms. Ayeka"

I, Tenchi, woke up in my bed.

Postscript

"Happy New Year"

"Happy new year!!"

A wonderful five part quintet was heard. It's the new year, and the location is the parlor of the Masaki house.

"Oh, thank you…… very much……"

Despite it being New Years morning, Tenchi was still wearing his traditional monk attire, but before his eyes the girls appeared as glittering stars in their long sleeved kimonos. Tenchi was so overwhelmed that he could not help but smile.

Starting from the left, the first, Ayeka Masaki. She is the first imperial princess of the kingdom of Jurai. She is the perfect princess, but she recognizes that she can be sly. She is the very model of a Japanese woman, however her personality is somewhat scary when she obsesses over something.

Second. Sasami Masaki. She is the second princess of Jurai's royal family. She is Ayeka's younger sister, she has many practical talents (primarily with the housework). She is cute, steady, and headstrong.

Third. Ryoko. She used to be a mummy. She is the demon of the shrine. She was a former puppet that has very high intelligence and fighting power. However, there are no need for such things in peaceful times. She can go through walls, fly through the air, and create an energy sword. She can also summon demons from the land and water simply by using her voice. She is surprisingly naive.

The fourth. Mihoshi. She is a competent first class detective of the Galaxy Police. Although, with the number of demolished buildings, bills, and all of the written complaints, you wouldn't think she would be a first class detective. Now she's carefree and spends all of her time taking care of her hair.

And finally, Washu. She was the most gifted scientist at the academy. She specializes in biotechnology. She was the late Kagato's professor, and is Ryoko's mother. Although she appears to be a child, she is, in fact, the oldest out of the five (there is a reason for this). Her personality……. well, it's best left to the imagination.

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How did these five beautiful girls end up at Tenchi Masaki's house? *The reason lies in outer space……..*

"Tenchi Muyo!" volumes 1 and 6 will require readers to know the story thus far. If by chance you don't, allow me to explain the story thus far. Those that already know the story can skip ahead.

About a half a year ago…….

To the east lies Okayama Prefecture, where Tenchi Masaki spends his summer vacations. While there, however, he doesn't go to the mountains or the ocean, instead he trains in the art of Bushido at the Masaki shrine.

Every day started the same way, he would wake up at six in the morning and work in the fields. He would then do the household chores, he was also charged with the task of performing the Masaki shrine's chores, and any spare time he had was spent practicing Bushido.

Deep in the mountains behind the Shrine was a beautiful girl that would watch over Tenchi. She found Tenchi interesting, and found enjoyment in watching him. There is a legend surrounding the Masaki shrine. The legend goes like this: "There is a demon sealed away at the shrine", and, "the demon was sealed by the shrine's sword". And so, when the mummy had awakened from it's slumber, Tenchi's fate changed immediately.

As summer came to an end, Tenchi returned to school, but upon his return a seventeen year old girl with psychic powers appeared before him, and her name was Ryoko. This was their first encounter. Ryoko chased after Tenchi like a baby bird would chase after its parent.

Before long an enormous spaceship appeared high above Tenchi's house. The first princess of Jurai, Ayeka appeared in her ship, Ryu-oh. Gunfire abruptly broke out. Ryoko summons her ship, Ryo-Ohki, and together with Tenchi the two of them try and escape, however Ryu-oh and Ryo-Ohki crash in to the pond behind the Masaki shrine and they both end up seriously damaged.

With nowhere else to go, first princess Ayeka and her sister Sasami reluctantly decide to stay at the Masaki house. This is the second, and third person.

How did it come to this?

The first person to ask the question.

"When I was a space pirate I heard of a great treasure that existed on Jurai that was known as the Master Key, however when I was sent to retrieve it Ayeka's older brother appeared. He began to chase me so I escaped to Earth. Upon arrival he used the Master Key to imprison me for seven hundred years. Then Tenchi came and he woke me up. So, that makes Tenchi mine" (*Ryoko*)

"Even though Yosho is my older half brother, he is also my fiance. He's been missing for a very long time and because of that I can't marry him, and it's all that Ryoko's fault. However, I am grateful to Tenchi. When I depressed he was there to comfort me. Lord Tenchi is strong yet kind, is this why whenever i'm near him I feel so safe?" (*Ayeka*)

As it turns out, Ayeka's older brother, Yosho is actually Tenchi's grandfather, Katsuhito Masaki. At that moment, the love triangle between Tenchi, Ayeka, and Ryoko was established. He was once her young fiance, but he has now grown old. However, the people of Jurai live very long lives.

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Anyway, let's now focus on the new visitor that has arrived at the Masaki house.

The most heinous criminal on the Galaxy police's most wanted list, Kagato, was being pursued by Mihoshi. Kagato aims to take the Master Key. The fourth person. Finally, Kagato arrives! Kagato's ship, Soja, and the combined Ryu-oh & Ryo-Ohki glared intently at each other in outer space. On the one hand, one of them is a very large war ship. On the other hand, one is a very light and maneuverable warship controlled by Ryo-Ohki. Then the main battery of Soja destroyed Ryu-oh.

Tenchi's in danger…….. he was in there (in the middle of the fight, Ayeka's virtue was shattered, but suddenly, Tenchi, who had died, was revived exactly as he once was) ……. and then Tenchi admirably defeated Kagato. Then, the genius Washu revealed that she was Ryoko's true creator. The fifth person.

After the battle they all returned home, although, you would suspect this story to have a happy ending…….

Ha…….. this is exhausting.

Are you tired of reading? After all, it's still early on in the book.

……. I just wanted to casually emphasize it.

Now then.

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"Tenchi! Wake up already! Come here and sit down," said Katsuhito Masaki, also known as Yosho.

"Tenchi's getting married! This truly is a happy new year", said Tenchi's father, Nobuyuki Masaki. The flowers were carefully arranged in the tokonoma, decorative mochi were laid out on a low table, all of the New Years preparations were made.

The seating arrangements are as follows, Grandfather is seated at the head of the table, to his left is father, then Sasami and Washu. To her right sits Ayeka followed by Ryoko and Mihoshi. Everybody is dressed up. The five girls has acquired exquisite looking long-sleeved kimonos for the occasion, they could hardly contain their excitement.

I can't even describe their beauty.

"Lord Tenchi, don't you think we look beautiful?" Ayeka said bashfully. "We dressed up like this because we wanted to surprise you."

"Lord Tenchi, in order to surprise you we waited until you were out shopping to go and get them."

"I am glad."

"Lord Tenchi, you don't have to say anything, the expression on your face says it all. Are we not beautiful?"

"Your kimono's the *only* thing that looks good" muttered Ryoko. Fortunately however, Ayeka did not hear this. While Tenchi was busy admiring the scenery and their clothing, Ayeka and Ryoko's eyes both focused in on the empty seat between them.

I wonder where he will sit?

Ms. Ayeka and Ryoko exchange evil looks with one another. A fight could break out if the seating arrangement is not decided soon. Tenchi involuntarily looked to his father for help.

Nobuyuki replied with a large grin, lucky guy.

It's useless. Tenchi began plotting his next move.

"Lord Tenchi," Ayeka brushed off the seat next to him.

"Hi, Tenchi!" Ryoko shakes her sake cup out of irritation. Mihoshi cluelessly sits nearby holding a bottle of wine.

"Your kimono……. suits you….." Tenchi felt dizzy after he told her how he felt on the inside, but he let out a sigh of relief afterwards. He may be unable to return to his bed on the second floor now. Perhaps……

Five minutes later, Tenchi drank New Years sake, and ate all the food that was brought to him until he was nearly full. Tenchi's chopsticks were still on the rest where they were originally.

"Ms. Ayeka I'm fine. I can do it myself….."

"Oh my, but I made these for you, and I was hoping you would tell me how good they taste. Well?" Ayeka slowly raised a black soybean to Tenchi's face, she looks so happy.

"This? It's actually pretty good!"

"Oh, this is too much……. my cheeks," Ayeka started to feel flustered. "Tenchi you're eating too much. I know you're a man. Look, why don't you stop and rest." At the same time, with a joyful expression on her face, Ryoko handed Tenchi a full cup of sake.

"Tenchi! Don't listen to anything she says. For starters, drinking too much is bad for your body"

"You're so annoying. When you act like his wife it makes me sick!"

Ayeka counters Ryoko's insults with a stern look.

"Oh! And just what's so wrong with me serving my future husband? I should shut your dirty mouth!"

"Your husband? So selfish, but don't get too excited. Tenchi is mine. I'm the only one for Tenchi. This was decided the moment that we first met. Eh, Tenchi?"

"Eh?....." The situation was very tense, but a reply was given immediately.

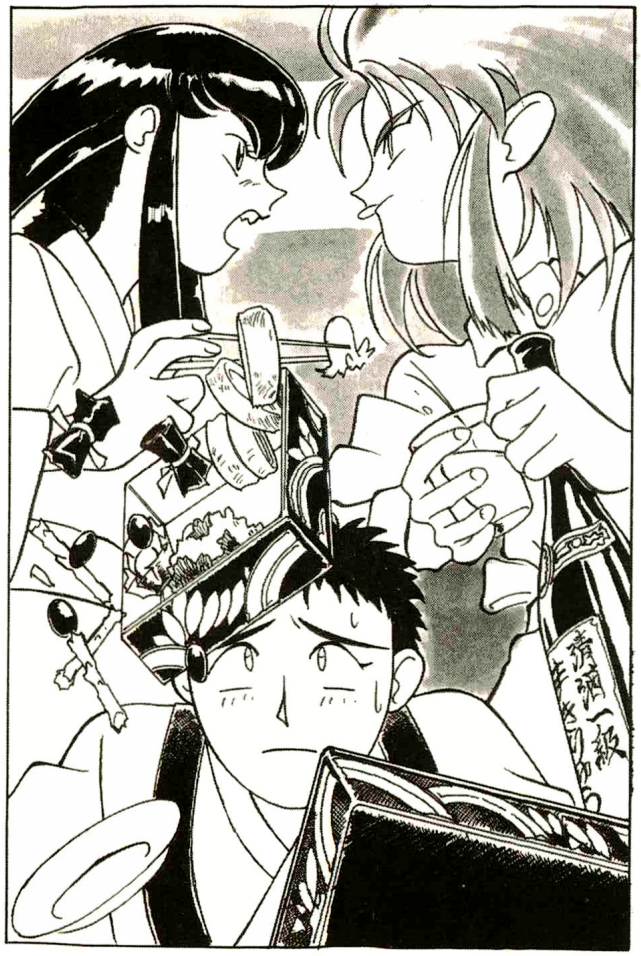
"That's nothing but a selfish excuse! Look at Lord Tenchi's face. Can't you see that he's embarrassed? Lord Tenchi is so indecisive……. I can't help but feel like we're being taken advantage of, and there's only so much I can take!" The look on Ryoko's face suddenly changed.

"Ayeka, watch what you say and be quiet, or if you prefer, we can continue this conversation outside!" Suddenly, Ryoko reached over Tenchi's head and grabbed the front of Ayeka's kimono. The front of her kimono begins to open, and her snow white skin begins to peek through.

"Oh……" Simultaneously, Tenchi and Ayeka looked into each other's eyes. She has a delicate figure, such graceful curves, which are all hidden under her nagajuban*. Tenchi had to catch his breath, as for Ayeka, her ears became red and she roughly grabbed Ryoko by the collar, glaring at her as if with the intent to kill.

"Let go! Girls, stop fighting! What excuse it there for all this violence? Can you please say something nice about to each other and by some miracle become friends?"

*An undershirt beneath a Kimono



"Such words would be wasted on a monster!"

"Monster? Ayeka, is that anyway to talk to…….. the person you once fought beside?"

"That time was different. The future of Jurai depends upon my marriage! Even though we fought alongside each other, I won't give lord Tenchi over to you!"

"I'm not just some thing! This is my life. Don't I have a say in what happens with it?"

"Aren't you ashamed by what you've said?"

Tenchi calmed down and quickly pondered his next move. He lowered his head and crawled under the low end table to get to the other side.

Yeah. *That's* original……

"Big sisters. It's New Years day, please stop fighting. I put so much effort into preparing the food, so let's all calm down and receive New Years peacefully!" One by one, they all turned around upon hearing Sasami's voice. "Alright it's over, so please don't start again. I'm going out to the garden, so please don't fight or do whatever it is you like to do. Tenchi, will you come with me?"

"Sasami……. must be joking. I can't let her imitate such vulgar behavior." Remembering the way Tenchi looked at her, Ayeka quickly regained her composure and donned her royal smile, all while fixing Ryoko's collar.

“How uncanny, asking us to separate…….. good grief, this is all your fault. Tenchi. Are you listening? Tenchi!”

“Yes, yes!” He answered from underneath the table. Ryoko and Tenchi unintentionally locked eyes.

“..... What did you mean by that. Also, what are you doing in a place like that?”

“Quickly now, let’s change the mood…… just kidding……”

“.....”

Breaking the silence, Katsuhito’s laughter resounded.

“Ho ho ho. Oh to be young and so full of life. Tenchi. You need to have more ambition, or you could just get used to things as they are” Katsuhito stood while laughing with a hohoho, and beckoned to Tenchi. “Now, to proceed to the first practice. I hope you didn’t eat too much, as you may become sick when you get over there. Now then” With a bow to everyone, Katsuhito left the room leisurely.

“”A, ar, are those strong young ladies over there fighting?” In the end it was Tenchi’s father who saved everyone from the poisonous atmosphere.

“If father says so then we’ll both have to quit fighting and get along” And, Ayeka. Acting tactful even in a place like this.

“Oh, how about Sasami?”

“Me too~”

Mihoshi, who had a rice cake hanging from her mouth looked confused.

“Wait a minute, this looks like some kind of slime, are they safe to eat?” Mihoshi wanted to eat soup containing rice cakes and vegetables.

“They are called rice cakes. They are made from rice.”

“Well, I do know everything about this. Are you going to teach us about today’s meal, big sister? I wonder if I can teach her how to cook this time.”

“Uh? Ye, Yes…….” Sasami watched her elder sister, quietly. She’s trying not to talk about how unappetising the food is.

“Hey, big sister, i’m going to teach you something that most people don’t know. Just later.”

“???” A big question mark appeared on Mihoshi’s head. “Um, did I say something bad?”

Up until now Washu had been eating silently, but she suddenly picked up a black soy bean and crushed it between her fingers.

“I take it that you cooked this, Princess? Even though you said you made this yourself, Ayeka, it’s so plump looking that it’s obvious that you didn’t. It’s better if you don’t talk about the cooking.”

“Oh dear, is that so? I, I didn’t notice……”

"All the Princess did was apply water to the beans overnight. Do you understand? I didn't teach anything to your older sister because you already did, Sasami," in fact, that was right.

"You sure you're a detective? Don't you need to have a keen eye for observation?"

"Sigh, I'm sorry….."

"Just don't try and get me to apologise"

"Sure……."

"Now then, shall we go?" Mihoshi was not yet accustomed to wearing her kimono and so she began to fall, so Washu lent her a hand and carefully examined the detective's face.

"You know, if you try hard enough you just might win it."

"Eh?"

"Tenchi."

"Try hard and win…… I never thought about it like that," Mihoshi blushed. "How do I do it? I'm just a ditz, and with the exception of my luck what kind of qualities are those. Ryoko and Ayeka would probably be a lot happier if I left. Don't you think so? Washu…… oh?" Again, Mihoshi loudly fell over, and once again, Washu gave her a hand.

"What's wrong?" She asked as she gazed at her intently just as she had before.

"I've had it…….. I bet they think i'm nothing more than a joke," While Washu corrected the hem of her Sunday Clothes, Mihoshi looked very reproachful.

"Look here, there is a reason it has not been decided on. Even though those two always fight you still have a chance. Have you even put forth the effort?"

"Put forth the effort..... whenever I make an effort it seems to backfire……"

"I think……. You're so smart!"

"But, why are you so concerned about me? Aren't you Ryoko's mother? Aren't you rooting for Ms. Ryoko?"

"I prefer not to take a stand on romance," Washu declared clearly, returning to the face of a cool genius scientist.

"What?"

"Listen, it's too soon for Tenchi choose someone. I wonder if I can do an in-depth genetic study?"

"??"

"I want to learn what on earth the capability of Tenchi is. Whether it's just an idiosyncrasy, or some sort of emotional power, we won't know unless we can examine it from the beginning."

"From the beginning……."

"Children, children. Ah, I see. What am I waiting for, nothing. I usually have to be forceful, so I hope we can get Tenchi's cooperation……."

"Eh, Ms. Washu, no……." Mihoshi almost called that action raping Tenchi……. she then became flustered and put her hands against her blushing face.

"..... Just stop and think. Even if it is for research, that's too far....."

"That's right!!" Mihoshi instinctively emphasized. "Despite who Tenchi may choose, I want it to be a fair fight. I think that everybody should get an equal opportunity. If anyone threatens this I think we'll have to put a stop to it. Everything fair and square! Right, Ms. Wahsu?"

Well, this might work……. maybe.

"You seem pretty serious. Let me rethink this. Okay! I, Washu, will assist you. Do your best."

"Yes!"

"By the way, have you already come up with a plan?"

"....."

"If you tell me could I help and do something?"

"....."

"No way, have you not come up with anything?"

"..... I'm sorry," nevertheless, Mihoshi couldn't account for everything. "Sigh……. I've learned a lot but I've still got a long ways to go. However, who in the heck does Tenchi really like?"

He's right. All of his problems from here on out will start here, and end here. Now is a crucial time for Tenchi. It disappeared a long time ago.

"Current Feelings?"

Tenchi thought he heard someone coming towards him. Then, Tenchi replied like so.

"Er…….. blessings be upon you. ***(He's clearly feeling shy)*** I know were surrounded by these cute girls, and I know they fight…….. nevertheless, I hope you feel welcomed. Last year I spent New Years with only three people, including my dad. Just my dad and me? It was always like that up until now. A New Years with all these women around would have been unimaginable. For this I am fortunate."

That someone who was approaching was a nimble reporter. This was his next question.

"I see. I understand. Then, clearly, you've heard the rumors. Is it true that you're engaged with princess Ayeka?" Tenchi became flustered.

"It's a lie! There is no engagement. Hold on, this must be some kind of misunderstanding……."

The reporter disregarded the comment that Tenchi made and continued on.

"Isn't it true that Ryoko's your childhood sweetheart? How about this one? The rumor about you being with the galaxy police officer, Mihoshi. Then there's your association with the genius scientist, Washu. After that, oh my, but she's so young at this point in time, princess Ayeka's cute little sister, Sasami, but this leads me to my next question. Using her, are you trying to tailor make yourself a bride for the future?"

Tenchi is at a loss for words.

"Wa, *what are you talking about?!* I, I just, I haven't laid a finger on any of them! However, whom I like and marry is an issue. I am a man, after all. Although, I would feel bad if any of the girls were forced. But, it is true. That one time that we went to the hot spring I never laid one finger on them! And of course I haven't kissed them, either! Even if I told you that me and one of the girls were dating it just wouldn't work because the rest of them still live at my house!"

The reporter continued to press for answers.

"So, you're saying you feel nothing at all for them? Well, I don't buy that. Please, just answer honestly. You can deny it all you want, but everyone knows that you spied on them at the hot springs."

"m, m, m, my dad forced me to……. I'm just a simple high school student! Even though I like them I never laid one finger on them! What do you want me to say?"

"So you're sticking to that one point. Come on, something must have happened. Anything said after this is off the record……."

"Okay. Though, if i'm not going to make an article I want the whole truth….."

"…….!"

"The truth? Is it Ryoko after all? She is very bold."

"…….!!" If Tenchi were a dog he would have tried to tear this reporter to shreds. However. In life, matters such as this are not resolved so quickly.

~.~

Despite it being new years day, the grounds of the Masaki Shrine were empty, and as Tenchi approached it he stopped and let out a deep sigh.

"It might be good if I do this. When I think about Ms. Ayeka, or whenever Ryoko shows up……"

Tenchi's thoughts.

Well, Ayeka is attractive. Other than when she fights with Ryoko, she is a very graceful woman. As a princess, she has a very large sense of pride. However, Ryoko is also attractive. Even though she can be violent, she is also a very earnest person. I was the one who awakened her, so she's my responsibility. However, as to the extent of how much I love her, is a difficult thing to answer……..

Moreover. Ms. Mihoshi. I was surprised when she fell from the sky that day, and to find out what her job was, but she is different from the others. Although, her work as a detective might be considered controversial, she solved the Kagato case tentatively, and above all else, she has a bright charm. I can't say this to her face, but whenever i'm around her I feel exhausted. Oh, that's a load off my mind.

Furthermore, Tenchi thought of the other two.

The cute and dependable Sasami. If I married her in the future she would surely be the best wife out of them all. The genius scientist, Washu. It's a mystery as to whether or not I love her or would want to marry her, however I realize that it would not be an ordinary experience. I don't think that i'm up to the task, and I wonder what it would be like if I fell in love with her. I'd laugh at that situation if I wasn't somewhat frightened by it.

Tenchi sighed again.

Well, anyway. Why do I have to be so indecisive? I wonder if it would have been better if I had never met Ryoko. If that were the case, I would be living an ordinary high school students life without all these girls around me, and all these worries. That's so!

Tenchi though deeply.

The girls are fine by themselves. There's no need for three, four, or even five people. There's no good reasons for them to be here. Yeah. That's the truth.

Tenchi begins to worry again. Huh? Why would he say such things?

"Are their Obis too short or sashes too long?"

That's not it.

"I learned never to eat that food again"

Neither is that.

Well…….

~.~

"" Is all of this beyond far beyond my reach" I wonder?"

"Wa!!"

Tenchi almost broke his back.

"Grandpa! When did you...!?" Katsuhito hit him with a wooden sword, nonchalantly.

"Because you were thinking strange thoughts you couldn't see it coming. Now, look at me and pay attention,"

The training room in the corner of the Shinto Shrine. As always, in the training room, they face opposite of each other, and all the while Tenchi is planning.

I think I understand what he's thinking. Only this is a well hidden secret.

"I'm going to wipe that off of his face. It's right under his nose, but he'll never see it coming. He can't keep using his proverbs on me like i'm some sort of high school freshman!"

Defeated. Tenchi got up, and took his basic stance. He fights using the Light Hawk Sword and the Jurian fighting style that has been passed down through the Masaki house for generations. The unique fight between them continued.

"I wonder why I feel so burnt out. I'm fairly concerned about this." When he returned to his base stance, Tenchi began to feel faint. His young face remained flushed. Suddenly, Katsuhito smiled.

"What are you worried about? You did just very well. I know that you're seriously worried about something. Is it about whether or not you are kind and liked by everyone? Don't worry, you are." Shocked by those words, Tenchi raised his head.

I see.

As expected, they know him all too well. An embarrassed smile came across Tenchi's face.

"I still have a way to go. The truth is that it's still too early for me to fully handle the Light Hawk Sword. Right now I can only use it in emergencies or when I protect someone I care about."

With a smile, Katsuhito bowed his head in agreement. The master and favorite pupil. They are also grandfather and grandchild. A deep moment between two people. However, this scene would not last much longer.

~.~

"Hello~. Are you working hard?"

"Ry, Ryoko!"

When did she get here?

Tenchi began to feel crestfallen on the inside. His emotions were fighting each other on the inside. He wanted to run away so bad, but it brought him discomfort knowing he could not do so.

"Don't mind me. Keep going. I can see you from here." Such kind and considerate words. Tenchi took his basic stance once again, all while stealing a glance at Ryoko. The usual…….

~.~

"You're practicing far too slowly. I can keep up with your movements with my eyes. Since you're still practicing I'll just leave. Hey! Go!"

"Wait. Don't leave so fast. I'm only a human. I can't fly in the sky, or teleport like you can."

"I guess I can't leave when you say something like that. Hey, get back here."

"Listen. Don't pull out your claws. Or bite. Or strangle necks. You're like a wildcat!"

"A wildcat-like alien would be useful in a fight!"

"If there is such a thing."

"Certainly. "When I was a space pirate, there was a planet called Acorn Mountain….."

"Wa?"

"I was challenged to a duel. If I had won I would have gotten a treasure called the "Golden Acorn"….."

"Golden acorn? A letter arrives from a Wildcat, he needs help with a trial about who is the greatest acorn. For helping him out I have the choice of either a golden acorn or the head of a salmon. Which one would you choose?* Are you sure this isn't some kind of fairy tale? It was called "The Acorns and the Wildcat"....."

"Thank you for the explanation, Tenchi. I know you'll do well."

"You know me so well? Is that why you enjoy picking on me so much?"

"It's because you're so adorable, Tenchi."

~.~

It is becoming a usual pattern.

Japanese fantasy pioneer, Mr. Kenji Miyazawa, I beg your pardon.

As the practice started, for a long time, Tenchi began to reminiscence.

Hmm. That's not good.

Tenchi took up a defensive posture and continued to blissfully daydream. Whenever he thinks someone is

* "The Acorns and the Wildcat" is a japanese fairytale by Kenji Miyazawa.

watching him he feels flustered. Though, why is Ryoko acting calm today? There must be an underlying motive. Tenchi once again stole a glance at Ryoko. Ryoko looked surprisingly meek wearing her kimono while sitting on the veranda. He's worried about her and Ayeka getting into another fight. Nevertheless……..

No, this isn't the time to be thinking such things.

Tenchi tried to practice concentrating on his feelings. It's still early new years day, and he's keeping a girl company. Now, I think he still needs to refine himself. I think he needs to believe in his own power. Just as he did when he fought Kagato. I still don't know if he is able to control the Master Key or not. Although, I wonder has he become even a little better since then.

Suddenly, an image of Kagato tossing Ryoko about like a ragdoll came to Tenchi's mind. He imagined that he could not overcome the power of Kagato.

And yet, after that, I won. However, it's not because of me. Without the spirit of the ship of legend, Tsunami, being there to give me with its power I would not have left one speck of dust in this universe. How was I able to defeat Kagato that time, I don't understand. The Light Hawk Wings. The Light Hawk Sword. The greatest mystery in the universe, and now i'm able to use this ultimate energy. No, I wasn't even aware of them. The spirit of Tsunami must have possessed me. That immense light, and power. It's like they're apart of me now. I can't mention anything about their power. After I returned here I asked about them. However, everyone shook their head and said the didn't know.

"Tenchi. It's your power. It's your destiny. You just need to sharpen your skills. I can say that much."

Uh…… My destiny?

Suddenly, Ryoko's face appeared in Tenchi's mind.

"Tenchi, I'm yours. And you're mine, Tenchi. Oh, Tenchi, you're my life."

At that moment he nearly dropped his wooden sword.

"Whoa!" One of Katsuhito's swords was hung up about one millimeter above Tenchi's head. Tenchi involuntarily fell down on the floor. Then.

~.~

"I have tea," Ryoko called out.

"Oh, everything's ready. Do you want to have it here?" Katsuhito turned around, whistling.

Ryoko, are you sure this is tea?

It would seem as though it were the end of the world judging by the expression of Tenchi's face that he made as he sat down.

This is strange. There is definitely something going on. It's not Ayeka's, but what's the harm in taking Ryoko's tea. What on earth is happening today?

Ryoko and Katsuhito were quietly sitting on the veranda, but Tenchi still feels suspicious about the situation.

"This tea tastes different, but then again this young lady did make it. Ryoko, you've been acting more womanly here recently. That Kimono design matches you." Having been praised by Katsuhito, Ryoko lowered

her head. She feels embarrassed. Perhaps bashful? Tenchi was also feeling embarrassed. Nervously, Tenchi said.

"Ryoko. …….umm……."

"Yes, tea." In no time, he was handed a tea cup. Radiant smile. The smile was cheap, like one you'd find in a fast food restaurant. Tenchi thought he had been handed alcohol, but upon tasting it the drink was indeed tea. The question he was going to say echoed in his head.

What happened? What on Earth happened? I want you to tell me. Why did she make tea today of all days?

Listening to Tenchi's thoughts, Ryoko heard it.

"Is it good?"

"Oh, yes……." He almost choked on his tea.

It it good? Is it delicious? Ryoko is paying attention to my thoughts.

Tenchi was at a loss for words.

This can't be the real Ryoko. At least it's been a while since Ayeka and Ryoko have fought.

Tenchi meaninglessly nodded as Ryoko watched.

What will happen this time?

She asked him, "Am I beautiful?"

He couldn't say.

By nature, I'm very timid. How on earth am I supposed to answer such a question?

Then, seeing right through him, Ryoko opened her mouth.

"Hey, Tenchi……."

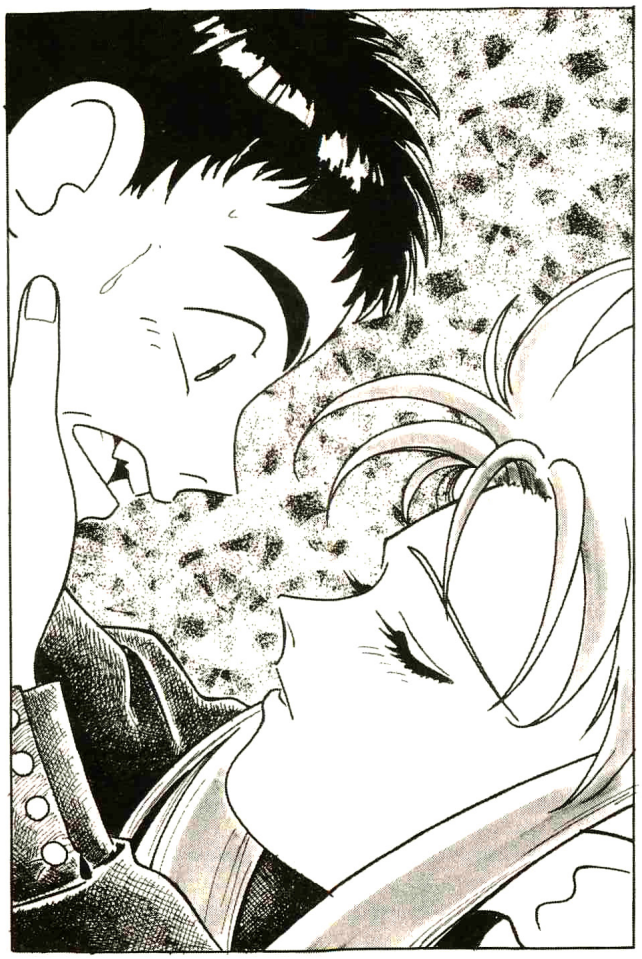
"Wa!" The teacup slipped from Tenchi's hand. Normally, under these conditions, his reflexes would be good enough to not let the teacup fall. Unfortunately, Tenchi's reflexes were not fast enough to grab it.

"What are you doing, foolish boy?" Katsuhito immediately caught the cup before it fell, and put it back in Tenchi's hand and then rotated back around. "Well. Ryoko, do you have something you want to discuss with Tenchi? The both of you take this opportunity to talk and observe the carrot fields. I'm going back to the central room." After saying this, Katsuhito began to walk back to the Masaki house.

"Please wait!"

Don't leave me here, alone.

She instinctively grabbed Tenchi's arm and pulled him back with force. She unexpectedly loosened her fingers. Up until now Tenchi was forcefully pulled around, but now Ryoko was holding onto the nape of his neck. Her hand was coming out of the sleeve of her kimono, so this could be why the impression could be different. Tenchi turned around and looked back at her face. His lips partly opened. Something appealing in



heart wet his eyes. His cheeks flushed. Their first time.

This is bad.

A shiver ran down Tenchi's spine. This was a different kind of shiver compared to when he faced Kagato.

"Ryoko…….?" It's as if he was drawn in by her voice, Ryoko reached out and grabbed his other arm.

"Tenchi……"

Now, this could be bad. I've been cornered. Given the current situation I don't know that I can speak at all. I'm such a fool.

Ryoko took one step forward. As their faces approach, they can feel each others hot breath. If it goes any further, there's only one way that it will end up. In Tenchi's mind he has already imagined what will happen next.

Starring, Tenchi. The kiss scene has arrived.

"Now, just wait. Please, just wait," Tenchi came to his senses, and separated himself from Ryoko. "Ryoko. I didn't mean it like that. I have to prepare my heart first. And now I'm suddenly put in this position……. Ryoko?"

Her eyes began to widen and water. Her lips are trembling.

"Ry, Ryoko??"

She wished to return to bed with Tenchi from the bottom of her heart. Only the darkness could save this situation from the uneasiness coming from that warm futon.

At that moment.

"Oh you idiot!!"

A sense of shock impacted into his head.

"I, I don't know why I came here anymore! Even though you're looking at me you must be thinking about Ayeka right now. Oh, it's no good. You must hate me. You'd probably kiss Ayeka before you would kiss me. You, You……."

"Well, wait!. Kiss me... "

Nothing. He's being quiet. Tenchi desperately tried to think of something to say, but he was having trouble with Ryoko angrily yelling at him.

"You've really gone and killed me this time, aaaahhhhh!"

There is nothing more that can be done. Ryoko's shoulders were shaking out of anger, while Tenchi didn't know what to do, however, he abruptly stood up.

I'm sorry, Ryoko. But, I can't lie. This is a terrible excuse, but I've never kissed anyone before. So, do you understand? Kissing is not something that I can just easily do. You are very special though…….

Special?

Unexpectedly, her heart began to hurt. Does this mean his feelings for her are special?

The way things look now I wonder if she'd even want to kiss me?

~.~

"Ryoko……" With a huff, Ryoko turned around. Her muscles are tense, and tears stream down her face. He feels just like a child who has been scolded by his mother. "Ryoko, I'm sorry."

Her expression changed from sad to shocked.

"Just a minute, um… what to say, you see, you don't understand"

Her expression then changed from shocked to doubtful.

"I don't know what else I can say to make you feel better, Ryoko. I don't know what else can I say, but I don't want to leave things like this……."

Her doubtful looking expression loosened.

"Tenchi. I……." Ryoko's speech was sluggish. She's trying very hard to talk. "I hate the thought of you being taken by anyone. So, are you saying you don't love me, and that you're going to abandon me? I don't know if this is a good thing to say. You must like Ayeka and Mihoshi because they were raised by their

parents." Ryoko's face looked drained of all emotion.

Is that so? Ryoko was made by Washu. She was made in that form in order to be used by Kagato. She is an expert in combat and destruction.

"For the first time I'm able to fully remember my true feelings. For seven hundred years I was only able to go out and explore the shrine in an astral body. When you were small you always had the option to go back to your mom…….. I envied you."

Tenchi looked at Ryoko, unable to speak. This is the first time Ryoko's ever talked like this.

"Then you said. "I love you, mommy! You're the best mom ever" You would go back home…... I was jealous," Ryoko raised her head to look straight at Tenchi. It was as if her eyes dug into him.

"Ryoko……."

Is that so? Is that right? But her love for me couldn't have been there at that point. Did I meet Ryoko for the very first time back when mom was still alive? Her words don't make sense.

A memory that had been buried deep within his mind vividly returned. It was of his mother in a light purple kimono. She was under a white parasol smiling gently. It was of an event from that eternal summer that only existed in memory. He and his mother were only able to be together for five years…...

It's pointless to remember such things. He had forgotten all of that pain up until now.

~.~

When he realized this, Tenchi turned away, and dug his nails into the palm of his hand. His vision became cloudy. Tenchi began crying and wiped away his tears with his sleeve.

"Damn. I remember." He felt something warm behind him. An arm in a long sleeved kimono wrapped itself around Tenchi's body.

"I saw it. ……. for a long time I watched," Ryoko was firmly pressed against Tenchi's stiff back while trying to calm him down. "Even though I couldn't do anything, I watched for a long time. You would always come to the cave and cry. ……. I tried so hard to speak to you. I wanted to stroke your little head so bad. ……. However, I was unable to. Then you started your training and you stopped coming to the cave. I couldn't let you in the cave. However, whenever you were outside……. playing, or crying when you would fall down, I would watch nearby in pain. But……. Little by little you could no longer feel my presence. It seems as though you don't remember much about your childhood. Then, one day, you just left," Ryoko stayed quiet for a while in order to let Tenchi confirm his feelings. Then, she began to speak.

"I was lonely. At that moment I finally understood just how painful being lonely could be. I hated all the thoughts and I had about you. I just wanted to catch you and squeeze you to pieces. However, I didn't have a body, so all I could do was sit in the darkness of the cave, alone, and do nothing……."

The warmth dissipated as Ryoko drew back.

"..... I appeared as a monster. As Ayeka calls me. I'm not used to being around human beings. I would fly through outer space together with Ryo-Ohki. Someday, I won't be able to regenerate my body parts, and then i'll die……" Tenchi could no longer bear it so he turned around.

"It's different! Don't say such things. Ryoko!!" Without realizing it, Tenchi extended his hand out and

pulled Ryoko towards him.

"Those things don't matter now. Ryoko, Ryoko what are you saying? You're fine as you are now. You might think it's impossible to be more human. Because I like you as you are now, Ryoko!"

Ryoko stopped moving.

Like? He likes Ryoko? Now, does he really mean it?

"Tenchi……" Ryoko's cheeks became very hot.

That's strange. Why is she shaking so? Why then is her body so hot?

"Tenchi. …….I feel strange. My powers won't work" She was frail looking, and she shook off Tenchi's hand. She became unbalanced, and began to fall onto Tenchi's chest.

"Ryoko?" While she was being held by Tenchi her body began to struggle.

No. I'm……. scared.

She turned her face away, and like a kitten Ryoko extended her fingers in desperation, and it was all brought on by her trying to understand and control her feelings.

"Ryoko, what happened?" There was no answer. There was only a quick breath. "Ryoko!" He forcibly turned around, and upon doing so a frightened expression appeared on his face.

"Tenchi…...it's not good……. it hurts……. I……." When she was unexpectedly pulled towards him, Ryoko fought against it, but now she was fully embraced in Tenchi's arms. For a moment, her breathing stopped. It felt like something hard on Ryoko's insides ruptured. Before long her inner warmth began to slowly fade away. Ryoko closed her eyes.

Warm despair. If there is even such a feeling. Is this the meaning of love?

Neither one of them wanted to leave. It was like this for a long time.

This is…….. This is love.

~.~

In the calm sunlight of early spring, for an instant, it seemed as though the two of them had carved out a moment of eternity. Such moments can happen to anyone. This time, in each others arms, for an instant, it felt as though the warmth was eternal. It's similar to when a light snowfall disappears in the spring.

However. It was as if a goddess had flew down upon the two of them, and in an instant she disappeared. Then, after all that, the extremely harsh reality begins to set in. This reality, had such malice. And now, they are passing under the the torii*.

*An archway at a Shinto shrine.

"What's going on here……..!?"

"What's going on here……..!?"

He knew whose voice it was, and he instantly felt danger, so he let go of her. He didn't even need to turn around. The worst reality. Ayeka, like a thunder cloud raining down destruction came walking very rapidly towards the two of them. She positioned herself so that he couldn't run away.

"Oh, Ms. Ayeka," Tenchi uttered in a nervous voice.

"What on earth were you doing?"

A power struggle. Tenchi almost gave up adding onto that statement. Well done, Tenchi. However, if he has so desired, he could have found more appropriate words to say.

"What is?" A cold reply was given.

"What?"

Tenchi felt like he was digging his own grave. For that matter, it would be far easier for him to just be buried.

"I'm asking you what you were doing with Ryoko just now!!" Her eyes, like those of a hunter, were locked in on Tenchi's face. In Tenchi's mind he's wondering how he can blow out the flame of his bad luck.

Don't laugh. A young boy's mind was not built to handle this kind of stress.

"Lord Tenchi," as Ayeka was talking she had two candles attached to her head, but Tenchi blew them out. "Wa, waa?" Ayeka's gaze is still locked right on Tenchi's face. Tenchi's head was practically empty, and yet he tried hard to form a sentence.

"Um, I ……. haven't done anything……."

By the look on Ayeka's face it was apparent that she didn't believe those words.

"Ryoko 's not feeling very well……."

Ayeka abruptly narrowed her eyes.

"I'm worried….." Those were the last words he was able to utter before his mind went blank. Ayeka solemnly glances over at Ryoko.

"So, she's feeling sick, is she?" Once again, however, her gaze became fixed on Tenchi. "I just want you to be honest with me," calmly, and thoroughly, Ayeka began to question Tenchi. However, she couldn't. Her sense of betrayal angered her too much. Ayeka's lip began to tremble. "I……. I…….. I don't believe you, lord Tenchi. You were having a premarital affair" Ayeka glared back at Ryoko, and in a nature unbecoming of a princess, she tried to grab Ryoko, but she only grasped the air.

"What are you up to now?" The voice came from behind Ayeka. She was completely disgusted at hearing that voice. Ayeka was enraged, and she again tried to catch her enemy, but she only caught air once again.

"Is it so bad if Tenchi and I are together? Well? So what if I came up with this ridiculous story?" Again, the voice came from behind Ayeka. Ayeka's face became stiff. She can't tolerate it anymore.

"Let me tell you something, plainly. I am the first crown princess of Jurai. Now that I have plainly explained myself, why don't you face me? Stop disappearing and show yourself." Disregarding Ayeka's words, Ryoko approached. The distance was about ten centimeters.

"Why don't you just stand still? Eh? Little miss Ayeka. Did you really think i'd been sick and quiet this whole time?"

"What are you talking about?"

Ryoko unexpectedly disappeared again. She then reappeared and took her kimono off and threw it at Ayeka's head.

"Ryoko?" Tenchi was shocked and looked up towards the sky.

"Wait a minute, what?!" Ayeka recovered and removed the kimono from her head just as Ryoko reappeared in her battle garb raising her energy sword at Ayeka's head. Ryoko's golden eyes were glistening. This is a dangerous situation.

"Hey, you wanna know something, I'm really fed up with you. Tenchi, Tenchi, Tenchi's gonna marry me. You're the only one complaining about it. The universe doesn't revolve around you. For your information. Your servants are harmless to me. Better say something now or I'll kill you!" Ryoko's energy sword was still positioned right underneath Ayeka's nose.

"What?" Ayeka quickly brushed the energy sword off to her side.

This is different. This isn't the normal Ryoko that's always fighting.

The moment that Ayeka flinched the energy sword reappeared. For an instant Ayeka didn't know what happened to her body. Tenchi is the same. Showing no sympathy, she then cut off the sleeves of her Sunday best.

"No, stop……..Ryoko! Please stop!" Tenchi got between the two of them.

"Move, Tenchi!!" Ryoko's sword struck Tenchi's clothes and the shock wave tore them to shreds.

"You!! Were you trying to kill lord Tenchi!?" Ayeka's scream echoed.

"So annoying! You always, always have to get in between me and Tenchi's love. Now watch as Tenchi dies here!"

"Noooo, Ryoko!" Ryoko's sword almost cut right through one of Tenchi's arteries.

Is this the same Ryoko from before?

Well, that was a first, was it like a scene from a teen film? How unpleasant. This isn't the time to think about such things. I might have just ended the life of a sixteen year old.

Anyway.

"Ahh, that's what I was yearning for!" Tenchi desperately clung onto Ryoko's foot while she was floating in midair.

"Stop. Just please stop. I just want things to back to how they were. Can you two please just stop and take each others hands? Why are you doing this?"

"Argh, let go, Tenchi. I'm gonna cut up this woman!" Ryoko began to attack while Tenchi was being dragged behind her. Hitting, biting, and scratching.

"Stop. I'm not your scratching post. Please calm down!"

"You want my Tenchi," Ayeka went on the offensive and defensive. She seems to have completely forgotten about the energy sword. This is no ordinary fight between humans. It looked like a three way cat fight. When a sane person comes along and sees this they will surely throw a bucket of water on them.

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"Um, Ms. Washu. Why are you holding a bucket?"

"Excellent observation. You'll understand soon."

Although it's very heavy. Mihoshi came walking up the stone steps very quietly. With Ryo-Ohki following close behind. Ryo-ohki raised her ears. Mihoshi also heard it. It was the sound of girls screaming and a man begging. How much of that does Mihoshi understand? A lovers quarrel.

"Ahh, this is serious!" With her detective instincts, Mihoshi began to run while carrying a large bucket. Surprisingly not one drop of water was spilled, she is a detective, after all. Surely, she was trained for fire fighting while doing frontier work. Be that as it may.

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Punishment is carried out!!

~.~

She was accurate up to one millimeter,so it seems as though the fire fighting training was effective. Three soaking wet heads all turned around together.

"Mihoshi……!"

"Is this a lovers quarrel that spans the galaxy?"

"Washu!!"

While Tenchi was giving a rather idiotic summary of the situation, Ayeka and Ryoko got up and began to brush off their clothes to appear less unsightly.

"I'm sure there's a very interesting story to be told, but you three need to change clothes," said the scientist, Washu. Though, given the circumstances, their change of clothes may not look too well. Rather than using abusive language, Washu simply sighed at those three as a teacher would her mischevious students.

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"Well, that's good. Now that you've changed clothes, go and wash your faces and then meet me in my room. I should have known you'd be up to something when you didn't come back after a while…… Aren't you an Imperial Princess? Doesn't that matter anymore?"

"It's all because of Ryoko……" Ayeka instinctively answered, but she felt embarrassed upon looking at Washu and was at a loss for words. Although…… I don't know why a princess would become so angry that she'd start acting like a child. Forgetting that she was acting like a child, Ayeka glared at Ryoko. If she could speak she would say that it was all that homewreckers fault. If it wasn't for her. There's only one person in this universe who stands in my way from being with lord Tenchi. Her gaze becomes instinctively tight. Ignoring it, Ryoko stood up. She casually dusts off her clothes, and then stretched herself out like a cat.

"Gimme a break, sometimes I just enjoy causing a little trouble. Anyway, I'm tired, so I'm gonna go to sleep."

Those words rubbed Ayeka the wrong way.

"Wait just a moment, Ryoko!!" Ayeka quickly stands. Tenchi also stood up in a panic.

"Again? Since you've done these things this proves you have no maturity. Sigh. I was foolish to treat you like adults. Good-bye," Washu turned around and began to walk. Mihoshi follows in a fluster.

"What's wrong, Ms. Washu?"

"It's fine, it's fine. If they want to act like children i'll just leave them alone and let them fight all they want. Why should I, the number one genius scientist in the whole universe worry about such childish things?"

"Huh?"

"They've got sex on the brain. At any rate, if all they think about is him they'll have to put it into practice sooner or later. Ryo-Ohki, don't hide, come over here to Washu!"

"Meow??" Ryo-Ohki runs away from the danger, she goes and hides herself, with a carrot in her mouth, and her ears pointed up.

"The carrot! You really do look like an animal. Well, wherever you go, just let me replenish your energy first. Argh, I'm getting angry!"

"What's wrong, Ms. Washu?" Mihoshi had absolutely no clue as to why Washu was so angry. Perhaps nobody there would even be able understand the reason why. That's right. Nobody is able to understand her words. However, in Washu's mind, such circuitry doesn't exist. Her words are important, but if anyone can't understand them they must just be stupid. Such is the way of the world. Washu turned around.

"I have free time! It's so boring and tedious!! No one will even come and ask me for help. Additionally, I'm starting to become used to life on this far distant, primitive planet. The conversation that lord Tenchi heard, lord Tenchi. Also, no one trying to put what I say into practice. It pains me that this is how it is, so I might just have to make this place one of the great scientific locations in the galaxy!!"

"Well!?"

What's the big idea? What could she possibly be thinking shutting herself up in her room with no food? It's hard to understand the way a genius thinks. That reminds me, there used to be another person who looked like her. Though that person is already dead.

Mihoshi remembered the Kagato case and unintentionally muttered.

"Did we do the right thing?"

"Eh?" Washu found fault with that.

"No, wait a minute, Ms. Washu. That's very bad!"

"How so?" When she was innocently asked this in return, she could not reply.

"After all Earth and the milky way galaxy are under a special protection program that prohibits contact with more advanced civilizations. Of course, combat is also strictly prohibited!" Mihoshi raised her fist for emphasis.

"So…… you weren't listening." Though, she did indeed hear. Mihoshi began to speak but stopped. Does she not understand what she's done to make such a genius angry?

"Ok? First off, there's a reason why I made my holo-computer. Ryu-oh's been blown to pieces and your ship's been swallowed by a black hole, but Ryo-Ohki, how did I manage to build such a pirate ship with my skills? Ah, after all, I am a genius. Hey, Detective First Class Mihoshi!"

"Y, yes?" She involuntarily and sadly answered.

"I'm making you my lab assistant. Come on, faster. Run!" Washu gleefully began to run down the stone steps.

"Just wait……"

Computer? Isn't that a symbol of a more advanced civilization, even though it just makes long distance universal communication? Oh yes! I can use that to send in her report on Kagato! After that, a vacation. Vacation! I hope that when I take that vacation the weather's nice. I want to go to a bamboo hot spring just like where I met Tenchi.

It's no good with just the two of them. She had to take this chance.

~.~

Mihoshi was too busy daydreaming and she completely forgot about her report, and the repercussions.

"Ayeka ~, Ryoko~" Mihoshi said in a gleeful voice as she ran clumsily down the stone stairs. Upon hearing that, three people came down without a clue as to what was going on. "Big news, big news!!" Mihoshi said with a dazzling smile on her face as the other three stood there, exhausted.

"What on Earth is it this time?!!" Tenchi asked in a depressing voice.

Why do I put up with this everyday? I wonder if this big news means that Ayeka, Ryoko, Mihoshi, and Washu will be going somewhere.

Tenchi really wished for that moment. No wonder. Eventually, Tenchi will be rewarded for all this, but as to when, who can say? Mihoshi gleefully ran down the stone steps and went towards the Masaki house where everyone else was waiting.

"This is called an Ansible."

"This is called a Ansible," Washu proudly pointed to the device in the center of the cluttered room. That kind of computer is common property for the rest of the galaxy. There cannot be unity in the galaxy without this real time communication system. Of course, the galaxy police and merchant guilds have mass communication network all around the galaxy.

This telecommunication system was originally foreseen by a female science fiction author named Ursula K. Le Guin, who resides in Portland, Oregon, United States. The communication system was used for everyday conversation around the universe, believed to have a network on earth by the end of the 20th century. Reality comes from fantasy. This was way beyond the limits of Tenchi's imagination, of course.

"This?"

Tenchi approached the device and examined closely. It consisted of a combination of a generic monitor and keyboard. However, other than the giant wad of poorly wired cables there was a capsule filled with gel contained within. Tenchi wondered what else was back there, but decided not to investigate further. He used wise judgement. Instead of listening to an explanation, Tenchi asked the following.

"Is it possible to communicate with planet Jurai?"

Washu smiled and laughed.

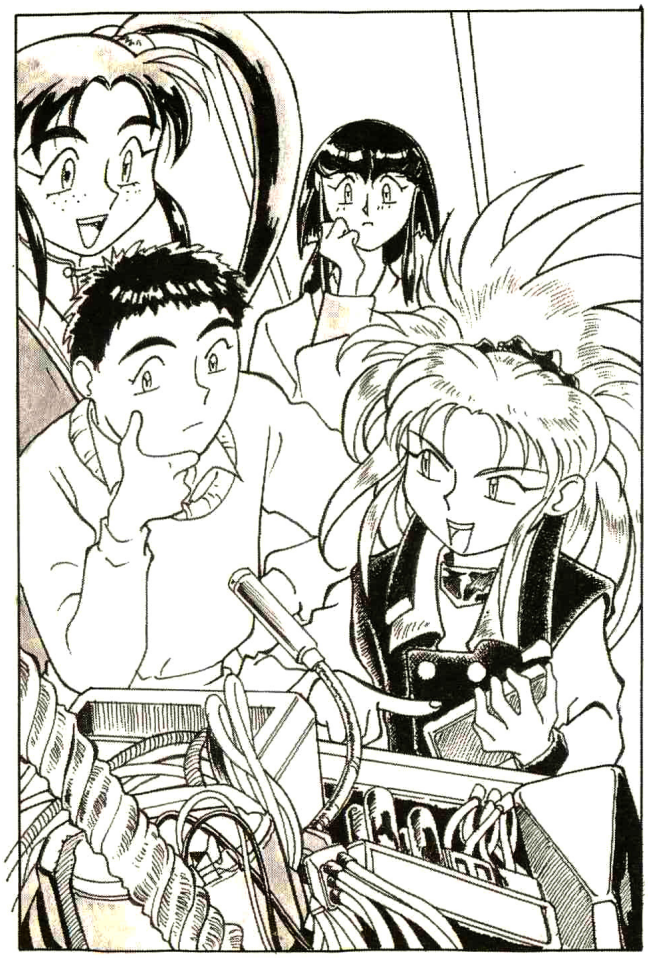
"Aren't you a smart boy?" Tenchi was surprised by a sound coming from behind him.

"Wait. don't contact them yet," Everyone watched as Ayeka stood there, trembling. At first they didn't consider her situation. Then she thought about it. Ryu-oh's still sunken in the bottom of the pond, so she can't use the ship's communication equipment. Ryu-oh was destroyed by Kagato, so she has to find an alternate ship. She has to tell her father back on Jurai about her older brother. If older brother no longer has the desire to return home I'll just have to return to Jurai with Sasami. Then however, she could no longer return to Earth unless there was an emergency. She could no longer see Tenchi…… Ayeka's heartbeat became faster.

"Why?" Tenchi turned around.

"They haven't seen Yosho in a very long time and I know mother and father are worried about us." Tenchi didn't say anything. Though Tenchi has good merit, Ayeka felt as though he was being especially insensitive. Ayeka felt like she could just scream.

Would he be fine if I left? After all, I am the only woman for him.



An unpleasant idea worked its way into her head.

Lord Tenchi actually does like Ryoko more. I don't want to be considered an obstructive woman.

An image suddenly appeared in Ayeka's mind. Tenchi and Ryoko were embracing each other in poses that only lovers would be in. Ayeka then screamed what she had wanted to say all along.

"Unacceptable!! Unless Tenchi and I are engaged I will not return to Jurai!"

"Wa wa?" Tenchi staggered.

Now, what to do. Let's focus in here. Ry, Ryoko…… If I don't help there's going to be bloodshed.

She saw Ryoko out of the corner of her eye as she began to let out a cold laughter.

"Ha ha, is that right. Little miss Ayeka's lost and has to find her way back home. You poor thing, but it just can't be helped. Ha ha ha" Ryoko laughed triumphantly "If you ask nicely I'll let you use Ryo-Ohki." As you would expect, Ayeka had nothing to say. Even if she got the engagement set it would be of no use to her.

If I leave Ryoko will try with all her might to seduce lord Tenchi. Lord Tenchi would be completely under her control. Oh, what to do!

For the first time in her life, Ayeka was faced with a difficult life issue. It is a problem that can't simply be solved by money or power. Ayeka stared at Tenchi, waiting for him to move so she could entreat him.

Don't say that we can't go. I want to be near you.

However, Ayeka watched as Tenchi had an embarrassed look on his face.

"Come on, what are you going to do. I've been sitting here, patiently waiting, on my free time," Washu urged.

Free time…… this can't be the same person.

Since its come to this, Ayeka thought about kidnapping Tenchi and hijacking Ryo-Ohki, and going on a secretive journey through space. Mihoshi, who had been silent up until now interrupted.

"Excuse me, if everything's okay I'd like to send in that report now. Ayeka. If you're so reluctant, you can just hide. If that's the case, and you're on your own, you will be able to communicate whenever you want right? Is that alright?"

Those are very kind words whenever a woman proposes marriage to a man. She has a rare heart. Although, she wasn't aware of what she had said. Whenever someone is in trouble, a gentle person with a warm personality will be there to help. For example, they may be rivals in love and want to kill each other at times, but they can be kind. Ayeka's face suddenly lit up due to her friend who was there in her time of need.

"Oh my, thank you Mihoshi," Ayeka was deeply moved as she took Mihoshi's hand. "How can I show my gratitude……" Mihoshi smiled and nodded as she sat down and began to input galaxy police code. However, the situation was different compared to what Mihoshi had imagined it to be. After the tense situation had calmed down, the ansible suddenly began shouting at the first class detective.

~.~

"Mihoshi? Are you really Mihoshi? Wait. Don't disconnect without permission this time. You will now be connected to the chief," Mihoshi's superior officer at the Galaxy Police district headquarters, heliosphere branch, Section Chief Nobeyama, appeared on the screen. His voice sounded completely hollow.

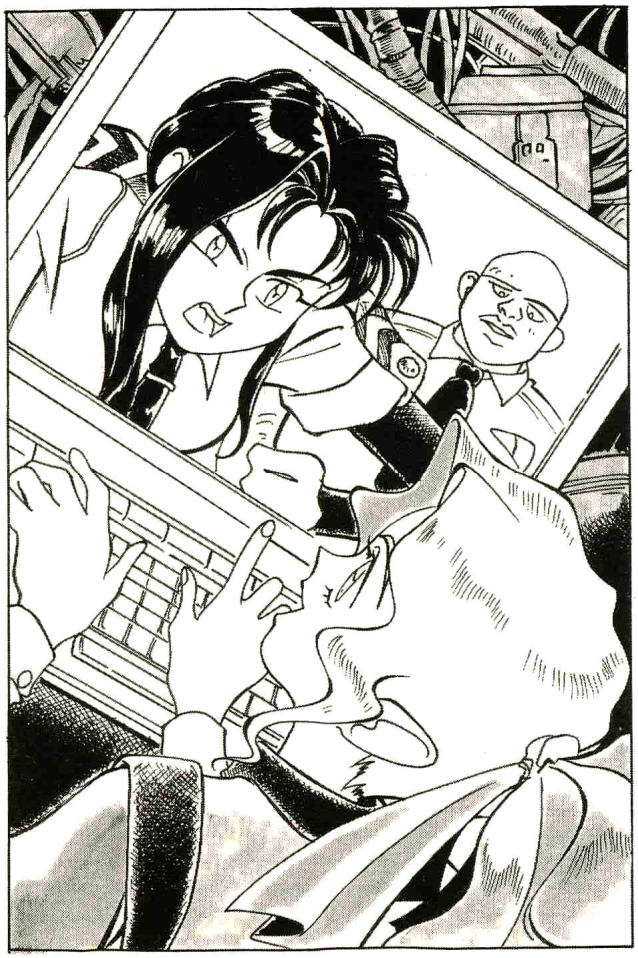
"Section Chief Nobeyama? It's been a while……." She heard a familiar noise coming from behind the chief. Except it was different, because mixed in with the normal office sounds of footsteps and people bumping into each other was the sound of someone dropping a coffee cup.

"Is that Mihoshi!?" said a woman with raised eyebrows and an angry look on her face as she had her face pressed against the monitor. "If you're alive then why haven't you stayed in contact? Thanks to you, every day has been this hard. Kagato's ship, the Soja suddenly appeared inside the Milky Way galaxy, and as a result a squad was sent deal with him, but upon their arrival they found the wreckage of Jurian ships scattered all over the place, and to make matters worse, the heinous criminal battleship Ryo-Ohki was spotted in at the third planet of the Sol system. You know that galaxy police can't go there. However, given the situation, the chief was going to talk to the board to see if they would make an exception to the rule and send a planetside rescue party to find you. Meanwhile, what have you been doing?!!"

Mihoshi gasped when she looked at the woman's face.

"Oh…….. Kiyone……. its been so long!" Kiyone's face began to twitch.

"What do you mean it's been a long time? You don't have anything else to say?! Do you know how much I've been worrying about you?!!" This is a force that even surpasses Ryoko. Nevertheless, it is beautifully fierce. Ayeka was forced to the back when the two of them came together. This woman is Mihoshi's partner, who has won great great fame and recognition in the galaxy police, and her name is Kiyone Makibi,



Detective First Class.

"Kiyone. I wouldn't wear that yellow green scarf. Also, it has pea green and orange polka dots. Did I tell you that it doesn't match your eye color? Since those colors don't work with each other it makes your complexion look bad." Mihoshi couldn't help to say while wincing.

If it wasn't for her fashion sense. Such perfect beauty. What happened to her? As in the past I heard she used to be doing a lot better off.

"Mihoshi!" Kiyone's lips began trembling all over. "Do you not understand the current situation?!! Since you've come into contact with people there we need to change the subject to the report. Besides, when does fashion sense matter when you're in the middle of a gun fight," an image of Kiyone's bust and blaster appeared on the screen. "Also……."

Allow me to speak. While Kiyone is silent for a moment. I always tell her that putting forth the effort is worth it. Besides, she doesn't follow fashion trends. It is just a thought.

"Excuse me for a moment," a deep voice said from off screen. "Now that you've said all you need to say, I have something that I must say, thank you. Kiyone, if you'd be so kind as to switch with me."

"Chief Anderson……" Kiyone turned around to find a humanoid alien with face of a lion standing there.

"Excuse me. Don't pull guns out in the police station, I'm sorry." In an instant Kiyone's face returned to

that of a proper detective as she saluted and gave up her seat.

This is the real Kiyone. Coming from planet Jurai, she had an exceptionally high IQ and was an expert in combat, so she decided to enroll at the galaxy police academy in the hopes of joining the elite, unfortunately, however, luck was not on her side. If her and Mihoshi had never partnered up she would have surely been doing important work at headquarters.

"It is as you've heard. Headquarters is in dire straights. To put it bluntly, it's a life or death situation. Mihoshi, cheer up, you've already taken care of one of the main factors. However, there are still two other factors remaining. What of the most wanted and heinous criminal, Kagato?" The chief had a serious look on his face. Yet, he also looked somewhat emaciated. Mihoshi's heart ached.

"I'm really very sorry for making you worry. Kagato is gone." The chief looked away from the monitor.

"You did it all by yourself?"

"No. Tenchi……."

"Tenchi? Who is that?"

"He's the person who helped me. He's my first love. Here he comes," Mihoshi's cheeks became red as she let out an embarrassed laugh. On the other side of the monitor the chief made some noise, and the monitor went blank for a while.

"S, so he doesn't exist," the chief said as he crawled back into his chair. "Where exactly is this person at that I've been hearing about"

"What? He just left, but allow me to go and get him. Please wait for a moment," Mihoshi left the chief, however, at that moment, the sound of people fighting could be heard.

"It it okay if I come out? This isn't funny. I've not talked with such a foreigner."

"I think you are a foreigner. Leonis are aliens."

"Same thing"

"It's useless. You're a witness. You're the only living witness from the Kagato case. Normally you'd have to buy this. Take this automatic translation device"

"Is there some sort of problem?"

"Aren't you an earthling?" Tenchi saw Anderson on the other side of the monitor, and he began to speak. "You there, boy, are you the one that defeated Kagato? At any rate, please have a seat. How did you manage to defeat such a heinous criminal?" Tenchi sat in front of the ansible, looking at the person from the person from the Leonis star system, and he then looked up at Mihoshi.

"I……."

"What?"

"When Kagato……. showed up at my house, he took away Ryoko. So, because of that I…… had to go and get her back. Ms. Ayeka and Mihoshi helped me reach his ship using Ryo-Ohki……."

"Wait. Ms Ayeka, as in Ayeka the first crown Princess from planet Jurai?"

"Yes."

"Is princess Ayeka safe? What about her younger sister, Princess Sasami? Are they both there?"

Damn. Ms. Ayeka not in good spirits right now.

"Everyone is safe. I'm fine. Err, Mihoshi, is it alright if I take your place?"

"Everybody? Did you say everybody?"

"Ayeka, and Sasami. Mihoshi. Ryoko. Ryo-Ohki. Even my dad……" To enumerate, Tenchi couldn't help but feel very awkward and and somewhat desperate in this situation. "Wait. Everyone, gather around the monitor. At once"

"No. That can't be!" Outside of the frame, a familiar woman's voice was heard, and then, all of a sudden, the screen changed rapidly and one by one all of their faces were displayed.

"Connection has been made to the small, and innocent planet Earth. Such a primitive thing, but what what can you do? By the way, chief. I don't have the report, and we don't know about the safety of your subordinate. We'd like to express a little of our gratitude"

Still, are you....? How many people did Mihoshi really come into contact with on Earth? It doesn't seem as though earthlings are able to comprehend the wisdom that the Ansible has to offer.

The chief raised his eyebrow in disapproval

"Who? Who are?"

"Hehehe," a chuckle was heard. The screen suddenly changed, and the figure of a small girl was projected. "It is I. The genius scientist, Washu! I, Washu, made the Ansible. I, Washu, also made Ryoko, the Soja, and Ryo-Ohki!"

"Washu!?" The chief was at a loss for words.

Washu? The genius schoolgirl that was kidnapped centuries ago?

"By the way, using the ansible is the same as making a collect call. I am now penniless. All that money I lost when Soja was destroyed, and I never even opened up a bank account. Oh well, it's not like I need a degree or anything like that to collect the finders fee. Since I don't have a ship I can't leave here, so I was hoping someone would be kind and pick me up. Transmit the coordinates here. Well, go on," Washu tried to turn the ansible off.

"Just wait. Just wait a minute," the chief said in a desperate voice, stopping Washu's finger not a moment too soon. "Didn't you say that that region is under special protection? Isn't it uninhabited? If not, then how are you able to land where the native people live and work. You must have come up with some method……." Washu interrupted.

"What such thing? Isn't there some kind of transfer device around here?" The chief frowned.

"It's the headquarters agency's. Besides, it won't solve the problem"

"Err……." Tenchi appeared. "This might be a little too much after Ryu-Oh and Ryo-Ohki appeared in the sky over Okayama. When they crashed they did destroy the Great Seto Bridge. Everyone was finally convinced that all the commotion was caused by a meteor. Therefore, instead of coming down in a huge spaceship I think it would be better to use the transfer device instead. However, only at my house. We'd need to go to another to avoid any trouble." The chief seemed a little relieved.

"Indeed. a meteorite. So that's what caused the strange phenomenon. The special protection treaty seems to have paid off. All spaceships are prohibited from entering that protected region. If ever a case arose where a ship had no choice but to enter the area an electromagnetic shield would automatically be created. In other words, even with radar the ship would go undetected. In short, the only way to find it would be to perform a visual check. Even if it can be spotted, but not properly identified, it will be treated as an unidentified flying object. Do you understand what I just told you?"

"UFO?"

"Yes. A UFO. However, you……."

"Yes?"

"Knowing so much is a serious problem. The protection agreement between you and the rest of us is pretty meaningless, so they might as well end it. Surely……."

"That's not the case for me and my dad. I'm actually only half earthling. My grandpa is actually the older brother of Ms. Ayeka……"

Chief Anderson's jaw dropped. After that, one minute passed.

"No way."

"It's true. Yosho Masaki is my grandpa," Tenchi told the man with the lion face's, who them replied in a pitiful tone and a blank look on his face.

"You mean the first crown prince of Jurai that went missing for centuries?"

"That's right."

"Then you're..."

"Tenchi Masaki. I'm still learning all the details and reasons. Until then, I just want to live like a normal person"

"....."

Okayama is an important place in the universe. That's right. Because it is in an uncivilized region of space, it was overlooked until now. However, surely a time will come when it will become developed…….

"Detective first class Mihoshi!!" The chief shouted all of a sudden, and Mihoshi was so surprised that she jumped up.

"Yes?"

"Send in that report immediately. Then get in contact with the headquarters. We must contact planet Jurai. Princess Ayeka!"

"Yes?"

"A missing persons report was issued by your father. Until we get there, Detective First Class Mihoshi will be your bodyguard. Don't do anything selfish. It's not been so good here. The galaxy is in an uproar. Mihoshi. Take care," abruptly, the Ansible cut off. Everybody exchanged glances at each other. Ryoko literally leapt into the air.

"Shit! The Police are coming? Ryo-Ohki……!!"

Ayeka timed her disappearance to occur exactly in the evening. This is called a learning function.

"What about you and the statute of limitations? Now, carefully running away?"

"What? I'm leaving. Statute of Limitations may have run out, but I still hate the Police. They're always trying to dig up dirt about me!"

"You're a witness of the Kagato case. A non-cooperative attitude is not good. Do you want to be elevated to the status of a permanently wanted criminal?"

"Ryoko. Are you speechless? You now belong to me. Leave it to my mother."

"That's not true. My older sister didn't take part in it. Don't take her away. Sasami assures it!" Everyone was suggesting that it was for selfish reasons, and as for Ryoko and Ayeka it seemed as though they had lost their vitality.

Why is she saying such nice things about me to the police? Does such a guarantee even exist?

Ryoko stole a glance at Tenchi. Tenchi noticed her looking at him and so he replied to it with a smile. Their faces were like those of smiling children.

There's no reason to let let Ayeka have such a treasure.

Ryoko thought about the smile he had given her, and she tried to come up with something nice to say while moving towards him. Now all she had to do was make Tenchi hers and run away. Ryoko came swooping down from the air and began to snuggle the man who she loved.

"Tenchi. Why don't you and I run away together? I could act naughty. I love you!" At that moment, Ayeka's face became frozen.

"Could you please be quiet for just a moment? If I don't send in this report I'll get fired," With a serious look on her face, Mihoshi walked towards the Ansible. They were told that all routine work in the station had to be stopped, as a report of unprecedented proportions had arrived.

"The Kagato case, and resolution!"

"The Kagato case, and resolution! The Earth boy's merit."

"Princess Ayeka has been safely discovered! The Jurian palace is full of joy"

"Modern day legend! Jurai's first crown prince is alive!"

"It's a difficult solution! The legendary genius schoolgirl Washu has appeared."

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These various headlines were written. From the center of the Milky Way, to the outer fringes of the galaxy, through the Ansible network several hundred million people heard about Tenchi and his exploits, and they went crazy over him.

"Why did the information from that confidential conversation appear in the news this morning?"

It is January second, Earth time. Chief Anderson turned around and looked at section chief Nobeyama, and then the beautiful detective Kiyone.

"Well, now what?" Nobeyama piled up all of the different interstellar newspapers, and muttered, "Now how to deal with the rapidly spreading news?"

"This good news is certainly different" The reception lobby of the AN became filled to max capacity with people from different areas once they heard the news flash that Kagato incident had been resolved.

"That can't be. The Kagato case has been resolved, the first and second Princesses of Jurai have been safely found, the first Prince has been found, the genius schoolgirl Washu's been found, and a new hero called Tenchi's all behind it, that's impossible. Isn't that place just some big planet that amounts to little more than pocket change?"

"What, that's..."

"Sounds like an Earth folk tale. I am an Earth enthusiast." Nobeyama alone nodded his head.

"Mihoshi, I have no doubt that you'll get a promotion. As I said, you would be doing office work at headquarters. Well, don't you like that idea? The only one thing you'll lose is your patrol ship." Anderson hung up and shook his head as Kiyone read the news article in silence, but he then poked her shoulder.

"Kiyone. I'm sorry, can you please get some coffee? I'd like some before the conference starts so I can clear my head."

"Yes, right away!" When Kiyone saw how pitiful the chief looked she stood up and left the newspaper there, however she then ran into the crowd of reporters in the secondary lobby.

"The top-secret code analysis manual seems to have appeared on the market. This news leak is a serious problem, but this is the chief's responsibility. Other than that, is their anything to worry about in the future. Maybe this idiotic fiasco is just a ruse to take advantage of something else. It could just be a money grab, or it could lead to be some stowaways and possibly even some terrorists trying to enter the special protection area. It doesn't mean that a second or third kidnapping couldn't occur. You're going to have your hands full patrolling the area around Earth."

Kiyone ordered three coffees from the concession robot.

"It as you said," the Chief sipped his hot coffee, letting out a sigh. "So, the mass media is detestable. If the Galaxy Police got involved in anyway it would just stir things up, and complaints would slowly come in. The heliosphere substation was peaceful until Mihoshi came. It was possible to return to the quarters at the appointed time. But, it is already late."

"Eventually, the peaceful days will return," Nobeyama said with an optimistic expression. "Everyone of the VIP's comes home. Aside from that, I would love to experience setting foot on Earth. Although, I don't see such an opportunity presenting itself in my lifetime. I would probably have to take a correspondence course in cultural anthropology. How I long to work in the fields. Detective Kiyone?"

"Yes…….?" Kiyone answered vaguely. After speaking to his subordinate her superior exited. Dealing with complaints regarding Mihoshi must be why he acts the way he does. With that child like attitude he seems as though he's unfit for his position. At any rate…...

"You're late," Kiyone looked around. "How long did you plan to keep me waiting?"

"I was busy being chased by the media."

It was then the Chief requested his second cup of coffee.

"Just what I needed to relax!" A low pitch sound was heard.

"Headquarter Director General!" The three people who were called all stood up reflexively, as the person in charge of the Galaxy Police, Marshall Kuramitsu was on his way to take care of business accompanied by his bodyguard.

"Did you hear that there was supposed to be a conference……..?" Chief Anderson rushed over, looking up at the Director General.

"Conference? We've canceled the conference. The person in charge of renovating the conference hall has left for Earth. I wish to see my granddaughter's face as soon as possible. Distinguished service. If your training and education pay off, you'll have our gratitude."

"Yes……." The Director General strikes Chief Anderson on the back with a bang bang while laughing in a heartily fashion, then lowers his voice.

"We will have many guests coming from Jurai. It will be difficult to perform the conference as it will be very noisy. I want to confirm their daughters' safety as soon as possible. Planet Jurai is steeped in ancient

history. I am a founding member of the federation council. It's such a nuisance, I wish I could put it all behind me and ignore it. Isn't the Jurian royal palace empty right now? Everybody from the Jurian palace is coming including the Empress, the aids, bodyguards, the servants, and even the chefs. They will soon see our troubles for themselves, and offer aid. Moreover, each star system's media representative will be there. How unpleasant. However, the galaxy police will be placed under the control of Jurai, so unpleasant."

"Yes," While boarding a private transport, Marshall Kuramitsu sighed.

"Anyway, the parent and child's reunion will soon happen. Although, it's not like she can move around freely where she's at. However, I wonder what would cause three people to just let their heir wander around the universe. I don't understand."

"Isn't it a tradition? The journey of a beautiful young woman……."

"Showing off your knowledge of tradition?"

"Excuse me." Kiyone interrupted. "I am a Jurian. There is a ship dedicated for use only by those from house Jurai. Setting foot on the ship is impossible if you are not a blood relative of someone from house Jurai. Intruders are automatically obliterated. If the ship is attacked from the outside the Light Hawk Wing shield deploys to defend it. In terms of defense, it is unmatched. House Jurai has put their absolute trust in this ship."

"I see. Some of the details on it may be scattered throughout her first report. If Mihoshi's report doesn't come in I want a search party dispatched to scour the Earth for her. No, I won't speak ill of house Jurai. I just don't understand the way these Royals think."

With a smile, Kiyone looked at the chief.

"Please do not worry. I am a commoner. There are various problems with the emperors rule. Jurai has tried to lay the groundwork for good government, but there are some who don't see it that way."

"What do you mean?" The chief quickly asked. Kiyone lowered her voice.

"The Jurai Royal Family has a very long lifespan. Two thousand years in Galactic Standard Time. A commoner is 200 years. They are ten times that. The Commoner Parliament has no power over the Royal Family Parliament. The difference between the ruling class and the subordinate class is far too large. Actually……." Kiyone hesitated slightly. "In the past, there have been several rebellions. Rebellion members still exist in hiding. This is a once in a lifetime chance for them. The whole Jurai Royal Family is gathering. Furthermore, because of the special protection law, with the exception of self defence weapons, weapons are forbidden. Rebels are not limited to Jurai alone. There's another star system aiming for power expansion, pirates may be helping. Chief. Don't you see? This isn't an internal affairs problem, but an international problem. Please....."

"Is there conclusive evidence?"

"No. I'm merely stating the possibility."

"Understood. We'll do all we can" The chief gave a nod of encouragement to Kiyone, signifying that the problem was gone.

"Detective First Class Kiyone. You have patriotic feelings?"

"No. I just hate the terrorists." The chief read something back with a cold reply. This was a very sensitive subject to her.

"How many years has it been since you became a duo with my granddaughter?" Kiyone's face became soft.

"It's been two years."

"She's caused a lot of trouble."

"Although. I'm having a hard time keeping up with her bad ideas," Kiyone smiled.

To be sure, Mihoshi was an excellent detective. When the duo is together, no case goes unsolved. They have different methods. Although an ordinary detective depends on information and reasoning, Mihoshi has a lucky sixth sense. The criminal approached from the other side. They encountered him as soon as they turned the corner.

For example, a blaster's energy pack must be able to perform in desperate situations. An overhead flower-pot fell down and wet the grinning criminal's clothes. While slurping some noodles, they were interrupted by the criminal. At that moment, Mihoshi threw the bowl before she could draw her blaster. Upon dropping the bowl she quickly raised her shock gun. Mihoshi's that sort of detective.

"Chief Kuramitsu," Kiyone smiled cheerfully. The detective's smile was wasted. "She seems so different compared to a normal person like me. The main computer also determined that was the case. The budget is off……. oh," Kiyone recognized that she had misspoke and stopped speaking abruptly. "I am sorry"

The chief began to laugh. While laughing he patted Kiyone on the shoulder as if he didn't care.

"Please take care of Mihoshi. Because she has a partner like you that girl is able to be out in the field. Well then," the chief got off from the transport, and while walking down the long hallway he coughed. "It's time to leave. Let's pray to the God of the Galaxy Police for safety."

"What is that?" Chief Anderson responded with a question of his own.

"The Goddess of luck. Is there anything else?" This elderly person may have received the Goddesses favor. The chief suddenly looked at Kiyone very suspiciously. It felt just like Mihoshi's radiance. Whatever it is, it's difficult to express in words.

"Indeed. Such a thing would be truly wonderful. I pray that it gets spread around many times over." Meanwhile, section chief Nobeyama was making jokes.

"Gentlemen, keep focused on the task at hand," The chief counterattacked. "First of all, I believe. That it can happen. The Goddess smiles upon those who love life and don't give up hope." Normally, people would feel that such words would be extremely daunting, but the chief spoke the honest truth. Kiyone felt the love. It is a love that a grandfather gives to his grandchildren. She remembered her intense jealousy of Mihoshi. Mihoshi was blessed with too much.

Furthermore, now that I think about it. When we get there, I should tell her all this. It is good. There need to be kindhearted people who spread love that way. I think…….

Kiyone continued to shake her head to drive out such thoughts. The doors to the transporter made a noise as they opened.

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"Well, if it isn't Pete. If that many people show up we won't be able to fit them all in the main building!" While slurping noodles, Mihoshi faced the Ansible and began waving her chopsticks around. After the

report was submitted, they each began taking turns asking questions, while Mihoshi was with Washu in her lab underneath the Masaki house. Now, speaking with Mihoshi was Peter Finlay of Headquarters' Agent Administration Division who was in charge of site management.

"Also, I think the area surrounding the Masaki shrine is nice. There is also a Dojo that once had a hundred people there. But, if you plan to stay, you'll have to bring your own futon. After?"

"After we finish the preparations." A handsome man with blonde hair appeared on the monitor and replied. "I am from the headquarters agency party staff. The venue could be on the edge of the galaxy or even inside of a dragon's belly, it doesn't matter as long as it's available, okay? However, I want to hear more about you. Are you still 23 years old? To solve the Kagato case at such a young age is amazing. You are truly the grandchild of Chief Kuramitsu. Hey, do you have a sweetheart?"

"What?" Caught off-guard, Mihoshi was taken by surprise and dropped her chopsticks.

"What does that have to do with headquarters agency work? I'm glad. Send the party reception. Oh, is it time already? Alright, let's talk directly. How terrible, I already have to go to the transportation point? Hey, it's necessary for putting the special field up. Bye for now, honey." One of his subordinates came to remind him of the time, so he had to abruptly disconnect from the ansible, all while waving his hand before he did.

"Oh my……." Mihoshi sat in front of the Ansible, dumbfounded for a moment.

Honey? Is there some misunderstanding, I wonder...

Mihoshi looked at the clock. It was almost 9:30.

"I thought I was finally going to be able to take a much needed vacation, but it's been so busy," Mihoshi muttered a complaint, grabbed her coat and headed upstairs. There seemed to be laughter coming from the living room while people were watching a special New Years TV program. "Somehow, it's become a very serious matter," Mihoshi sighed, and then proceeded to go outside to the banquet hall.

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The morning of January 2nd. The sound of a bell woke up every person in the Masaki house.

"Mihoshi. Everyone else. Please get up. You need to get up early," Using the doorbell, and by making jovial noises, everyone gathered outside Mihoshi's door, and they didn't stop until she opened up the door. "Good morning. I'm Peter Finlay of the Agency Headquarters. Please, call me Pete." The blond haired man with the bright face continued. "I will be helping everybody. The preparations are complete, please come into the hall. The involved parties will be arriving in 3 hours"

"The hall? Involved parties?" Tenchi approached the man and asked those questions to his face.

"Oh, you mean you didn't hear anything about it?" The man smiled as he replied. "That is troubling. Ms. Mihoshi?"

"Oh……. well, yesterday I stayed up so late, and then they told me I had to get up early," Mihoshi noticed she had forgotten to set an alarm clock. "What time is it. Huh, 10 O'clock already? I just realized, today is the day that Tenchi's grandpa and Ayeka's parents are coming over. So, that being said, I wonder what will happen……."

"Today?"

Tenchi. Still so dimwitted.

Yesterday was one rough day. There was the incident with Ryoko, and then Ayeka and Ryoko were fighting, Mihoshi used Washu's ansible to contact the Galaxy Police, and I even went to bed brunk.

Galaxy Police?

The events of yesterday connected to this man's sudden appearance. After that, poor Mihoshi was hindered from writing her report, so she then headed into the living room. What happened yesterday?

"Er, Mr. Detective?" Tenchi greeted timidly.

"I'm not a Detective. I'm from the Administration Department. Please call me Pete. If possible, I'd like you to call me Pete the Tailor. I hope you can all can respect that. You know, of the Universal Planetary Alliance……."

"???" Everybody including Tenchi had a question mark floating on their faces. Some of them may know what he's talking about, but this issue is better left untouched. Surely, if we looked into this man's head there would lead to another universe.

Anyway.

"It is fine. There is still more than enough time. I'm sorry, may I have a cup of coffee? I only slept for three hours yesterday," Pete used his earth knowledge regarding Japanese homes more accurately than a foreigner of the same age, taking off his police shoes and changing into slippers, and walked towards the kitchen.

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"Oh, thank you," Pete drank the hot coffee in one sip, and he then began to laugh. "So, you're the second crown Princess of Jurai, you would make an excellent wife in the future," Sasami smiled sweetly, and she then served the special cookies.

"Big brother, I like the praise I just got, but I like Tenchi. I have an idea, why don't you play with me?"

"Ha-ha. Hey, this is serious. What do you want to play?" While listening to the conversation, and without any reservation, Pete asked to be served.

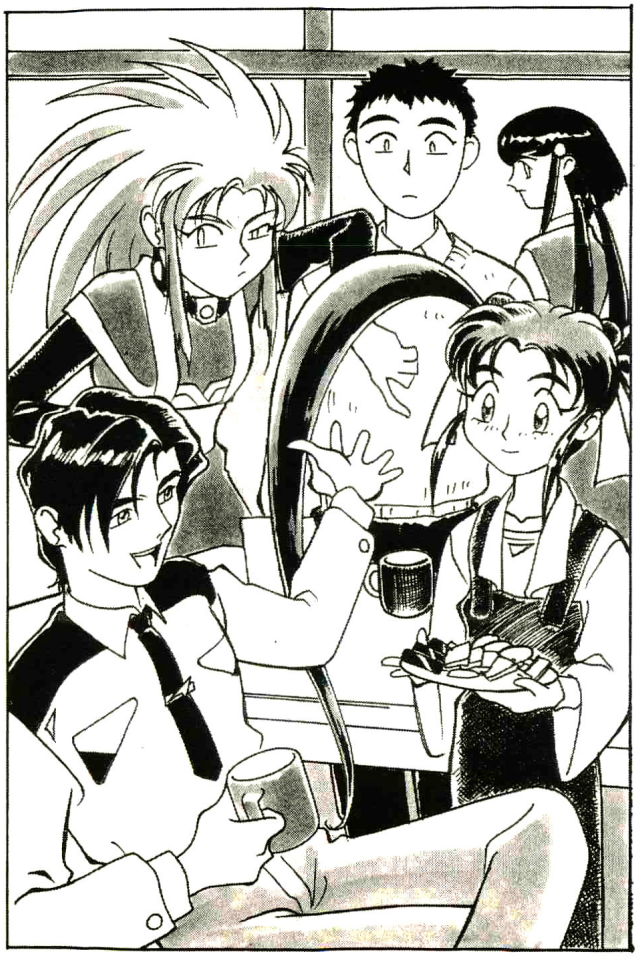
"Well……an amusement park or something. Maybe a game later on tonight. Sasami I'm going to the onsen for a bit, so don't worry i'm not leaving"

"Well, you really should ask your parents…… If they give their permission then you can go"

"How boring," Sasami poured cereal and milk into a bowl and started eating. "Aren't you going to eat big brother?" Sasami set out another another spoon and bowl, and Pete nodded his head to show his gratitude. Pete piled the cereal into his bowl and poured the milk, and he started eating.

"Big brother. How did you get to Earth?" Sasami stared in wonder at the man with the golden hair, who could have passed for a New Yorker if you removed his pointed ears.

"No. Nothing. Why?" While talking with his mouth full, Pete asked that question in response. "Well, it seems as though the people in this house really know how to eat food." Pete finished eating his cereal, so he wiped his mouth with a nearby napkin and put on a smile. "I don't think that food such as this exists anywhere else in the universe. My wish is to never be without such a breakfast ever again. Dry food and protein



drinks. I find them to be similar in taste to bait, myself. The love is missing, so to speak."

"Well……." She didn't really understand what he was saying. While thinking about what he said, Sasami poured another cup of coffee.

"Do you want to be friends, Sasami?" Sasami gladly accepted the offer and she was so happy to have found a new friend to play with.

"You may prepare breakfast."

Pete almost spilled some hot coffee, and sensing the danger he pushed himself out of the way, and he then shook his finger at Sasami.

"What a waste. That said, it's very important that I find my partner. Aren't you the princess of the Jurai Royal Family? Instead of just making breakfast you should make just enough to hold a raffle so people can get your cooking that way."

Sasami laughed with an innocent smile on her face which brought a certain hope to Pete.

"Princess Sasami. Can you introduce me to your older sister? It'd make an 'Okayama Holiday' more like a 'Roman Holiday'*"

""Oh, I know that. I saw it on TV the other day. I know my brother well."

*"Roman Holiday" is a 1953 comedy drama starring Audrey Hepburn about a Princess who escapes her overbearing guards and runs off with an American journalist.

"I am obsessive over my library"

"However, my older sister is useless. It's because she loves Tenchi" Pete was disappointed by that remark, so he asked his next question.

"Your big sister has never loved anyone like that up until now!?"

"Well. My older sister's stubborn. She also worries too much. So I have to rely on my older sister Ryoko."

"Ryoko, your older sister is the ex-space pirate Ryoko?"

"Yes."

"Ryoko loves Tenchi as well?"

"Yes……." Sasami suddenly got a serious look on her face and she leaned closer to Pete. "Big brother. You're a Galaxy Police detective, so are you here to try and arrest Ryoko? Because of the statute of limitations shouldn't everything be okay now? My older sister really is a good person. I'm just touchy right now. If Ryoko were taken away Ryo-Ohki would cry. I would cry too. It's because I love my older sister."

"Well……." Pete scratched his blonde hair out of embarrassment. He didn't want to upset this girl to whom he had become so attached to, so he decided to let her down gently. Pete decided to put forth a compromise. "To an important Galaxy Police detective such as myself, catching Ryoko is a trivial matter. Besides, I'm certain that her crimes from her pirate days have been nullified by the statute of limitations. Therefore, she doesn't need to be arrested. However, there are some details that still need to be cleared up, so I've been sent here to ask some questions. From here on out though, any further crimes could be very bad. As long as you're not covering anything up everything will be fine. Running away is not a good thing to do."

"My big sister has already been asked a bunch of questions. If that's the case, she has no choice but to run away."

"Wait. There's more," Pete raised a finger with a smile on his face. "You don't need to run away, you just need to hide. The big wigs are preoccupied with their various business duties, so as long as you don't show up anywhere they should forget all about Ryoko. However," Pete whispered. "Don't talk about Ryoko. Or anybody else for that matter. Can you do that?"

"Thanks a lot!" He thought no one else had heard their conversation, but Ryoko suddenly appeared at the table.

"Big Sister Ryoko!!" Sasami shouted in astonishment. "Were you eavesdropping? That's not very nice. Big sister, I had to ask." Pete tried to keep a straight face, but he became lost in thought while looking at the famous space pirate. Ryoko gave pete a rude look.

"I'm not going to just sit around and let you catch me. I'm not so stupid as to let the Galaxy Police catch me!"

Pete replied somewhat sullenly.

"Absolutely not. I said I'm not a detective, several times. Just ask Princess Sasami, it's the truth. If you want to be arrested, I could introduce you to a detective." Ryoko, smiling and laughing, teleported directly next to Pete.

"It was bad. I didn't think you were capable of showing kindness"

"This is the first time I've ever met a famous space pirate," Pete held out his hand. "I'm surprised. You must have psychic powers. If you'll let me, I'll help you. Although, you're already so strong. So, I guess you probably won't need my help." Nervously, Ryoko shook hands for a moment, before withdrawing quickly. Pete did not overlook this behavior.

"You seem fairly worried about me. Do I look like such a bad person?"

"Why does an Administration Division man have a blaster?" Pete calmly pulled down the lower part of his uniform.

"This? It's government issue. Even I need to protect myself. Even in this specially protected region, carrying arms for self-defense is permitted. Do you have X-ray vision?" Ryoko narrowed her eyes. She doesn't like him very much. Although this man dresses sharply and is smart, there is an air of danger surrounding him.

"..... What makes you think that?" Suddenly, Ryoko vanished.

"Big sister?" Sasami was surprised and looked around the vicinity. "Don't worry about it. Big sister Ryoko needs some lessons on manners."

"I'm not worried. I understand, on the contrary I feel relieved," Pete replied. "Not even a squad of detectives would be able to control her. It's good that she's quit being a space pirate," Pete stood up and beckoned Sasami to come towards him.

"Should I go to the meeting hall? Has Princess Ayeka finished her preparations yet? Hey, honey. So are the preparations finished?" Those last words were directed at Mihoshi, who had just entered the kitchen.

"Excuse me, Pete," Mihoshi bowed meekly. "I overslept……."

"Oh, it's fine," Pete waved his hand as he answered. "By the way, are you any good at cooking?"

"What?"

"No, I just heard you could. I was ordered to guard Princess Ayeka." Sasami turned around.

"That's right. Big sister Ryoko has been hiding for a while. I need to tell big brother Tenchi."

Two people left.

"What?" Mihoshi moved towards the messy table and muttered.

What a weird guy. I wonder if he's trying to pick her up? Although, I admit he has good skills.

Mihoshi imagined the main temple turned into a large banquet hall and involuntarily smiled.

"Wait, listen. No harm done," Mihoshi and Pete went to the banquet hall together, they got new bowls of cereal and began to eat breakfast.

It was a refreshing morning.

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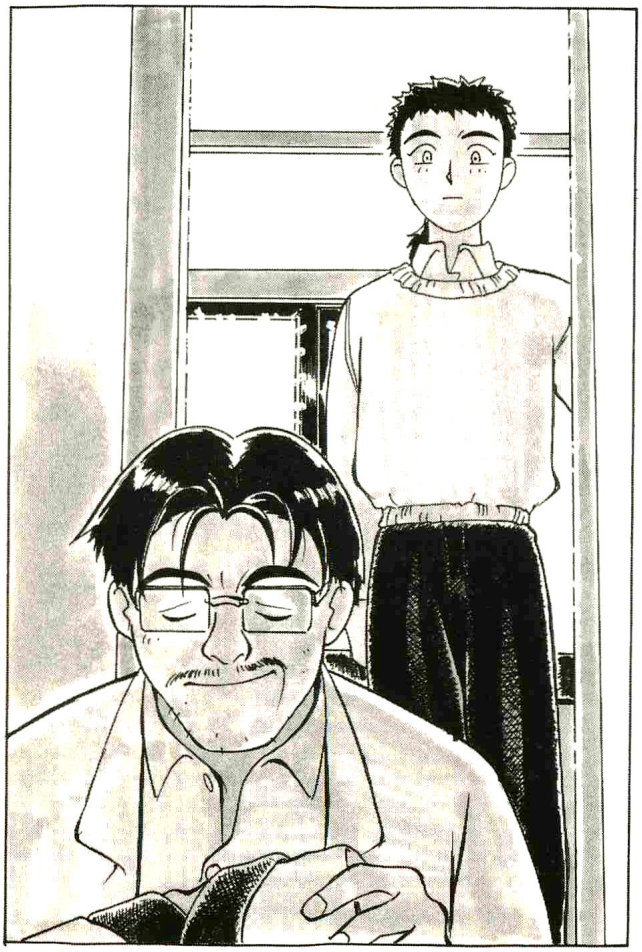
Just as Tenchi had finished dressing himself, his father Nobuyuki came from behind with his arm crossed with an irritated look on his face while staring at Tenchi's clothes.



"Tenchi. Those clothes were better. It's ridiculous that you're wearing a suit after the first three days of New Years."

"Either one is fine," Tenchi answered bluntly. "I was going to ask you once but dad did you really know all about this?"

"What?" Nobuyuki looked back on the kimono's sleeve.

"Grandpa is Yosho. If I'm a descendent of the Jurai Royal Family, are you too Dad? Aren't you going to be the Prince of the Jurai Royal Family?"

"That so," Nobuyuki poked his head inside the closet, looking for a belt. "Of course I knew. But, I think it would have only caused confusion if we told you. Even your mother, she said not to tell you."

"Mother? Mother also knew?"

"Tenchi. You seem to be misunderstanding," Nobuyuki could not find a belt and gave up, beginning to remove his clothes. "I am not related to the Jurai Royal Family. Your mother was the Princess of the Jurai Royal Family."

"Mother?!" Tenchi stood up reflexively. "My mother's the daughter of a Jurian!?"

"That is right," Nobuyuki, in only his underwear, began to fold the kimono.

"Tenchi, come here a moment. I will teach you how to fold formal clothing."

"Such a thing doesn't matter. Dad. Why didn't mom ever say anything?" Nobuyuki silently finished folding the clothes, and he then picked out the black herringbone jacket.

"Your mother knew her life would not last. Earth didn't seem to agree with her. I don't understand it either. She didn't want you to worry yourself too much. Everybody else said that she looked like she was growing aging just fine. She herself had said several times that after she was gone, I should find a second wife," Nobuyuki dropped his shoulders, feeling a little faint. "I've got too much on my mind to do that now, and I doubt I would in the future. I would give my own head to see your mother again."

Dad.....

Tenchi caught on to the expression, watching his father from behind. He had never thought about such a thing.

I didn't think that he would remarry again. I……what a child I was.

"Dad. .....I'm sorry."

"What. "Suddenly?" Nobuyuki turned around. The weight of all of the years without his wife cast a shadow over his usually sunny face.

"I was only thinking of myself……. I never even took dad's feelings into consideration. Even today, I…… was anxious. You know, Ms. Ayeka's parents are coming. The Emperor and Empress of Jurai, my relatives. All of a sudden, I'm the heir of the Jurai Royal Family, what am I supposed to think or do....." Tenchi said, hesitating.

I truly am just a coward.

"Remember. Today, you are an imperial Prince of the Jurai Royal Family, and your spouse will be decided. I will try and talk to my father……. however, it will be unpleasant because when my father forced me I ran away."

"Tenchi," Nobuyuki's warm hand covered his shoulder. "You have your mother's tenderness. Since I'm not from Jurai it's impossible for me to be in line for succession to the throne. However, even I thought it was unpleasant, so I wouldn't be surprised if you did too. I know you're only sixteen, and this is a very strange position to be in for someone your age. I just want to make myself clear. What do you think grandpa?"

Tenchi lifted his head suddenly.

"You have to choose one of the girls. But, choose your first kissing partner wisely. You may be digging your own grave. If it were me, I wouldn't pick Mihoshi. That adult there is quite the child. You'll feel better. That's what I think, but you'll have to decide for yourself."

"Father!" Tenchi's father was pleasantly surprised to see his son's face turning red from embarrassment.

He may not yet be ready for his first kiss.

It's almost like I'm just some spoiled child.

"Things like that……"

"Now, have you eaten?" Unable to say anything further, Tenchi stood up, disappointed. Nobuyuki looked at the chair Tenchi was sitting in and was shocked by what he saw.

"What is that doing there?" On the cushion, a crushed belt sat flatly.

"It's like a bachelor pad around here," as he was saying this, Nobuyuki picked the belt up, rolled it up, and then proceeded to throw it into the dresser.

"Tenchi. You are the star of hope. You're going to be a husband. Find a good bride. When I become old find a kind wife who will at least make me some rice porridge to eat."

"Dad?" Tenchi opened the door and ran out.

"Me? I would be happy to look at my wife's ass."

The thought of a woman's ass in a mini-skirt came to Tenchi's mind. However it was different from Ryoko and Ayeka's asses, more full and well rounded.

"Ayeka!"

"Ayeka!" On the grounds of the Masaki shrine, at the large gate, a tall man appeared. "Ayeka!!" Similarly, a slim figure materialized.

"Father! Mother!" Wrapped in the full dress of the Jurai Royal Family, Ayeka and Sasami ran out.

"Thanks for meeting us here," Being held in the sturdy arms of a man clad in luxurious clothes, Ayeka was almost moved to tears.

"I'm sorry for worrying you. Ayeka I'm glad to see you're alright. Sasami too……"

"Mother!" Sasami hugged her mother, the Empress, with a big smile on her face.

"Good good. Looking at your face it's obvious that I have nothing to worry about," The Jurian Emperor's patted his daughters head, and then he hugged them tightly once again.

"Father, come with Sasami. Come over here and meet my friends," Sasami slipped down her mother's arm, she then pointed at Tenchi who was walking up. "This is Big brother Tenchi, Ms. Mihoshi, grandpa, father, Ryo-Ohki, big sister Ryoko, and big brother Pete"

"What? Ryoko?" Sasami held back from speaking.

Oops.

Everybody grew very quiet. The Emperor of Jurai looked around the vicinity with a stern face.

"Ryoko! Where are you? Show yourself. Otherwise I, Azusa, emperor of Jurai, will label you a criminal for all eternity!" Everyone from house Jurai sat in a row, and the galaxy police were making a racket all around. Ryoko is a criminal that is hated by house Jurai.

Even if I can't arrest you officially, you can be sure there will be trouble.

Everyone thought so.

Sasami realized the slip of her tongue led to the current situation, and turned pale.

"Father. Don't arrest big sister Ryoko. She is a friend of Sasami. She helped save big sister Ayeka. Big sister's not a space pirate anymore," Sasami desperately appealed. Ayeka was surprised and stared at her younger sister.

This child…… is sticking up for Ryoko. Although, I think that even I would be worried if Ryoko was chased by the Galaxy Police, but I didn't think about her becoming a permanently wanted criminal. If she becomes a permanently wanted criminal she'll be chased all around the galaxy. There is no statute of limitations. She would keep being chased until the day she died. And, there is a proprietary Jurai Royal Family method to track permanent criminals. A hunting dog that uses something called the Divine Response Wave. Neither distance nor space exists in the Divine Response Wave. No one has escaped.

Other than the police, there are servants from house Jurai in attendance. It is called the Divine Response Warrior, it is elite. It is known to exist, though Ayeka has not seen it. Being followed by the Divine Response Warrior is the same as a death sentence.

Although I hate Ryoko, that is excessive. After all……

Ayeka reluctantly accepted her feelings.

If she were gone I'd have no one else to argue with. That trashy monster woman. I, the first crown princess of Jurai need to focus.

Ayeka reluctantly planned out her plan of defence. Suddenly, Ryoko appeared before the Emperor of Jurai.

"Emperor of Jurai. Just a minute, do you mean that?" With a grim face and her arms folded, Ryoko walked in front of the Emperor of Jurai. "I was evil, attacking the Imperial Palace of Jurai. However, that happened 700 years ago. I've changed. I used to be a space pirate back in those days," Ryoko looked straight into the face of the Emperor of Jurai. "I was manipulated like a puppet, my freedom was stolen from me, but the man who took it from me no longer exists. I have no intention of being a pirate anymore. However, I will not bow to the Emperor of Jurai to be given freedom. That's all I wanted to say." The Emperor of Jurai looked back at Ryoko with a grim face.

"Are you aware of the Jurai Royal Family's executioner, the Divine Response Warrior?"

"I've heard of it. The hound of death."

"If you become a permanent criminal, you'll be pursued until you die. Nevertheless, you can still beg for mercy."

"That's right. If I die, the hound of death also dies."

"Such courage," The Emperor of Jurai grasped onto Ryoko's shoulder, looking into her golden eyes. "You have the character of the Jurai Royal Family's founder. You have the spirit of a sailor who loves the freedom. Where did you get that from? I heard that you were made by someone."

"Certainly so. But, I have lived 2000 years this way. I only have one life. I am not the same person. If my freedom is lost, I will just disappear again," Ryoko looked back into the crimson pupil of the Emperor of Jurai.

"You're willing to put your life on the line for your freedom? Nobody is ever willing to give that up. Throwing your own freedom away is redemption enough for the crime." The hands grasping both shoulders of Ryoko were suddenly charged with power. The hands abruptly part, making Ryoko almost stagger.

"Good. Ryoko. I will not ask about your crimes," The Emperor of Jurai turned around and spoke to everyone loudly. "From now on, this person is to be accepted as a friend of the Emperor of Jurai. Treat them as appropriate for a guest!" Everyone in the row of the Jurai Royal Family was astir. The person who was previously a space pirate's crimes had been pardoned and made a friend.

"Father!" Sasami's face lit up, running to her father. With his powerful arms the Emperor of Jurai lifted Sasami easily.

"Sasami. Are you happy?" Sasami twisted her arm around her father's neck and gave him a kiss of gratitude.

"Thank you, father."

"I didn't do this for your sake," Although the Emperor of Jurai was in the middle of speaking, the gentle pupils narrowed. "That person won with their generosity. Your friend demonstrated the appropriate courage. Ryoko!" The Emperor of Jurai lowered Sasami down, taking the hand of Ryoko who was surprised by this unexpected development.

"To celebrate, let us walk the path of light together as I pray that the dark shadow of betrayal does not fall," Ryoko was taken aback.

This man has promised me redemption and called me a friend.

The emperor of Jurai, whom she had harmed is now calling her a friend.

To betray those words, this man would without hesitation send the pursuer.

Ryoko was astonished at the emperor's ability to understand.

What a difference from Ayeka. Annoying, but it can't be helped. Well, that's good.

At any rate, the former pirate was relieved. Mixed feelings appeared on her face. The Emperor of Jurai laughed seeing the look on Ryoko's face, turning and bowing elegantly to Chief Kuramitsu.

"I got held up with a trivial matter, forgive me for making you wait. I see everyone else has made it to the banquet. Even Ms. Mihoshi."

Tenchi watched this series of exchanges aghast, standing between his Grandpa and Father.

Planet Jurai, even though much is not understood about the planet, its Emperor, ruler over everything, it's amazing…..

Before he could give any simple praise, Ryoko unexpectedly poked Tenchi's right side.

"Tenchi. Be strong. I don't care what that old man says, this engagement is not going to happen. You'd be a prisoner of the Jurian royal family and you'd never be able to return"

"What?" Tenchi looked around the Vicinity. "Ryoko. That's a strange thing to say. What did you say?" The Emperor of Jurai turned around.

"Son. It is good of you to come. You'd been gone so far away for so long I thought that you were dead," The Emperor of Jurai looked at everyone's face one by one. "Yosho. and Tenchi. You protected my daughter and brought her back to my hand safely. I must express my gratitude. Tenchi," The Emperor of Jurai called out. "Blood of Jurai Royal Family, person who draws power from the light of the stars. I would like to talk, come with me. How precisely did you kill Kagato?" Sitting behind her father while trying to contain herself, Ayeka was piecing together what she wanted to say for when the time came. Interrupting her father's speech, Ayeka approached Tenchi, and while taking his hand she sat down to the left of him as if she had already become his wife.

"Father. He is the person that I love. Please, give me your blessing to marry him."

"Oh my, Ayeka!" The Empress raised both hands in surprise.

"Oh, errr……" Tenchi was horrified by this bombshell announcement, glancing at Ayeka while at a loss for words. Ayeka nestled up to Tenchi, taking his hand and wrapping it in hers to show off to Ryoko on the other side.

"Lord Tenchi is descended from big brother Yosho. And he is the person that saved my life. Besides, there is nobody more suitable to be my husband. I, Ayeka, want to be with this man. Please, sympathize with your daughter's heart," Ayeka bowed elegantly. On the other side, Ryoko's hair stood on end.

Damn it, this person…… Just when she started to act reserved it turned out she had an underlying motive. Saying he's her husband……. Even if she ran to the edge of the universe I'd destroy her.

Seeing the fist and face of Ryoko trembling in anger, Ayeka smiled charmingly. The smile showed Ayeka's true motives, more than anything.

Shit. You're making a big mistake if you think I'm going to stay silent. Though you skillfully buttered up your father, I am different.

Ryoko. You seem to have underestimated me.

When he noticed his daughters triumphant look on her face, and Tenchi's dumbfounded expression on his, the Jurian Emperor backed away from them.

"Misaki. Everyone else, come. Get ready for the banquet," Signaling the Empress and their attendants with a wave, the Jurian Emperor went up the stairs of the main temple in a hurry.

"Oh, Lord Tenchi," Ayeka pulled on Tenchi's hand.

"Just a moment, Ms. Ayeka!" Coming to his senses, Tenchi shook off the hand of Ayeka. The mass media surged like angry waves, surrounding and crowding Tenchi.

"Mr. Tenchi. How do you feel now?"

"Have you not won the heart of princess Ayeka?"

"Is it true that you are a blood descendant of the Jurai Royal Family?"

"What are your thoughts on being the heir of the Jurai Royal Family?"

"Princess Ayeka, please turn this way!"

The flash went off as their cameras were turned on them.

"Wait, wait, please wait……" Tenchi protected Ayeka from the group of reporters, looking around the vicinity for an escape. Ayeka drew Tenchi closer, putting on a smiling face at the request of the reporters.

"Everyone, Lord Tenchi is tired. Please wait for a formal announcement from my father later. I will be scolded by my father if we are late. Please clear a path," Taking this opportunity they went up the stairs of the main temple with a brisk pace. Instantly, the Imperial Guards of the Jurai Royal Family ran up and shut out the reporter troupe.

"Big sister, over here," Leaving her mother's side, who was busy talking with Marshall Kuramitsu, Sasami joined up with and began to walk up the temple's main steps with Mihoshi. "Mihoshi, I'm sorry. As crazy as things have been, I haven't been thinking about you, big sister. I think big brother Tenchi might be angry"

"Yes……" Hearing Mihoshi's feeble reply, Sasami stopped walking and looked up at the face of her older friend. "It's okay. Sasami, really, nothing's wrong." Even with her discouraged voice, Mihoshi smiled at Sasami. "Big sister Ryoko's hair is standing on end."

"Yes……"

"I think so too, Sasami."

"Me too," Mihoshi answered. In all the commotion, Ryoko seemed to have disappeared again. Mihoshi looked around the vicinity. Shoving the group of reporters aside, Kiyone could be seen yelling to her companion.

"Go ahead, Sasami," Mihoshi turned on her heel and started running while calling out.

I am going to be sitting next to where Ms. Ayeka and Mr. Tenchi and his insincere smile, however, I don't know if I can bear it.

They're helpless without Kiyone. Everybody's always asking Kiyone to do this or that. Even Chief Anderson and Section Chief Nobeyama call for her to come.

If that's so, I, as a detective need to say so firmly.

Field of vision began to narrow.

This is not fair at all.

She is the one person who can compete with the daughter of the Jurian emperor. But, Mihoshi remembered she is also the granddaughter of Chief Kuramitsu. Mihoshi collected herself, slowing her pace and wiped her tears on her uniform sleeve.

"If I showed up looking like this Kiyone will say something. Grandpa too," Mihoshi bravely shook her head, put on a smile, straightened herself up and began to walk. Meanwhile, Sasami became separated from Mihoshi, who had noticed that all the people around her weren't anyone she knew.

"Good grief, big sister Ayeka," Sasami was annoyed, as she walked up the stairs of the temple, suddenly she recalled her new friend.

"Big brother Pete. Where are you?" Sasami glanced around the area. As she opened the temple's main gate, she noticed that Pete was nowhere to be found. "I wonder where he could have gone?" Sighing, Sasami opened the temple's door. Detective Peter Finlay of the headquarters agency control division, or Pete for short, was tasked with a special mission, but Sasami who was looking for him lost him in all the confusion.

The Banquet began.

Pete's team and the Jurai Royal Family servants cooperated to arrange the temple building in radiantly colored Juraian cloth and furnishings. The walls were draped with delicate, colorful tapestry's laid one over top of the other, the effect that it gave off was like that of a field of flowers blooming in springtime. The guests were seated on small circular cushions which were placed at low round tables which were irregularly lined up from the head of the table. Everyone assembled near the round tables, and they looked as though they were floating on sunshine and thinking of flowers because they were so lost in their own amusement.

The Galaxy Police looked as though they were visitors from a foreign land in their boorish looking uniforms. However, silhouettes can be seen through a semi transparent drape, they look similar to trees, but they are, in fact, the Jurain emperor's loyal guards armed with swords to protect him. Outside of the shrine, the Galaxy Police security forces are guarding the vital points to prevent anybody from disrupting the feast. Thanks to the one kilometer long special field that encompasses the Masaki house and the Masaki shrine nobody dares to approach it. The security force members were a little bored standing there silently. The blonde haired man appeared and spoke to one of the security guards.

"Yo! Thanks for your hard work on duty. Seen anybody suspicious around?"

"No," A young security guard bluntly replied. He did not like this man. He then began to follow Marshall Kuramitsu around wherever he went while attempting to flatter him with with words. He also joked around with the banquet staff. He would talk to anyone. Even if a relationship wasn't for sale he would attempt to buy one for the relations. In this man's eyes, all of the young women might as well have a SALE label hanging visibly on them.

"What's your business?"

"If you have no business, please leave soon," one of the guards said.

"Nothing really. Nice weather," Pete didn't answer and he began to leisurely walk to the back of the building. The guard gave a cold stare back, and once more returned to his boring duties. He didn't notice. For a moment, the sunlight darkened visibly, cold air blowing through. The cold air began to stagnate as a shadowy figure appeared in the security guards blind spot. He directed his line of sight toward the main building. And then, it disappeared. Once again, the calm afternoon had returned.

Tenchi, holding the left side of his body, began to feel sick when he heard the Emperor of Jurai speak.

"Speaking of which……. I remember all the good times I had as a child. Moreover, are you strong enough? Just kidding!" Since no one had laughed, the Emperor of Jurai continued on. "Family sitting in a circle! Typhoons! They sure are strong in the summer!" Silence came over the round table.

"You've gone and angered the evil spirits! Restructure! Omission!" The silence deepened further.

"..... I'm tired of this one sided power. It is unacceptable."

After a moment, the Emperor of Jurai muttered a sigh.

"What else do you have to say?" Half of those in the seats surrounding the table were upset.

"Hahaha…."

Tenchi felt as though his HP bar had hit a single digit. Even I can tell just by looking at his face that he's uncomfortable. A little while ago he became overwhelmed when Ayeka dropped that on him earlier, and to make matters worse she's now nestled up against him, and there's bad jokes. If he receives any more blows like that he'll have to be revived in the temple.

I am still at a low level.

Tenchi got desperate and drained the cup dry, recovering a little vitality. Everytime he and the Jurian Emperor look at each other, Tenchi's face goes soft and grabs his left shoulder with one hand and places his other hand on his knee out of nervousness. To make matters worse, only Tenchi was sitting at the seat of honor. Although, with all the training he's undergone you'd think his spirit wouldn't be in pieces. His foot is asleep. However, with Ayeka sitting next to him he couldn't sit still.

"That's right. I'll tell you jokes handed down through house Jurai. One day, a package from an unknown sender arrived at house Jurai. The grand chamberlain, questioning its contents, slowly opened it and found a crude looking box inside. Upon opening the box there was one sheet of paper. This was written on the paper" The Emperor of Jurai began to sing. "Yes~ this is how it was when it arrived~" Marshall Kuramitsu was sitting next to him leaned in closer to listen in on what was being said.

"Oh you," The Empress of Jurai turned and gave an icy look to her husband. "Why are you always like this when you drink sake?"

"Misaki. Don't be angry. You need to loosen up," The Jurian Emperor began to stutter, so the chief helped him up.

"You'd think that the emperor of Jurai would be an intimidating individual, but he's got a rather friendly disposition." Mihoshi is sitting next to the Chief. She seemed to have recovered a little from Ayeka's bombshell announcement.

"My father's certainly been drinking," Katsuhito took the seat to the right of Tenchi. Because of the seven hundred years that he spent on Earth he became a father and a grandfather, and when he was younger he was the serious type just like his mother, but he now seems to have returned to how he originally was. "Am I going to have to act like their parents?" Tenchi looked at the face of the Emperor and Empress of Jurai. Ayeka certainly resembles her mother. Her face, that is, not her personality.

Should I be happy, should I be unhappy, I don't know yet.

"Lord Tenchi. Silly, what are you doing?" Ayeka snuggled up closely. As she pressed her body against Tenchi's a strange sensation ran up his leg.

"Ms. Ayeka, please don't lean on me so much. My foot……"

"What?"

"Foot…" Tenchi pulled his leg back which caused Ayeka's hand to lose his grip on his leg throwing off their balance resulting in the two of them falling into Katsuhito's lap who was sitting next to them.

"Aah!" The two of them fell on top of each other and they struggled to separate.

If no one else had been around, and if they hadn't have fallen in Katsuhito's lap, that scene would have been cut from the pure white pages of this book, however take it as you will as I have decided to continue.

Unfortunately, Katsuhito's laughter interrupted.

"You two are being a bit hasty," Katsuhito helped the red faced Princess and the the wounded Prince back onto their feet.

"I, I'm sorry."

"Unpleasant……" Tenchi, whose leg was no longer tingling had become numb, and as he tried to slowly stretch his leg he also nodded in agreement.

He's useless. When he's put into that kind of situation he just becomes disabled. I wonder if little by little his bad luck will continue to cause him misfortune?

"Tenchi, do not drink further, you'll harm your health," Now that that situation had been resolved, Ayeka suddenly became very caring towards Tenchi.

"Big sister, what are you doing?" Sasami raised her voice in astonishment.

"To sum it all up, That guy is stuck in a pattern," Calmly, Washu expressed her thoughts. "Now Kiyone, what was that matter you mentioned a while ago?"

"Mihoshi. It's good that she's drinking more." Not long ago, Kiyone heard the heartbreaking news that caused Mihoshi's smile to fade.

"Vacation, vacation. They're overworking us. The two of us have at least earned a trip to the hot springs."

"Which reminds me, how many years have we served the family?" Chief Anderson continued.

"Why don't you spend your vacation here? I'm certain that there are some famous hot springs on this planet. Remember where you and Mihoshi wanted to go……"

"The bamboo hot spring." Nobuyuki doubted Section Chief Nobeyama.

"Right there's fine. You know, chief, you've got a strange looking face, but other than that you look just like everyone else, anyway have some sake of the highest quality that's said to have been made at one of the hot springs around here."

"Well, uncle. Are you happy?" Once again, Ayeka was cuddling up next to Tenchi who was hanging his head in embarrassment. Meanwhile, while everyone was having a good time. Ryoko sat drinking sake alone without touching food or saying anything for some time, her expression like dark clouds.

What? The atmosphere. It was as if all of humanity shared the mood of those from house Jurai. It is especially so with Tenchi and Ayeka being put on display as they are.

Ryoko's golden eyes gave off a very stern look.

"The hot spring? Ayeka, will you remind me of it one more time? Remember the time she summoned evil spirits from the earth and water? Then there was that time when I sunk my head under the hot water when she became so conceited."

"Oh, you mean that freak show?" Ayeka raised her shoulders. "There's still so much I want to know about you. Everyone always comes to you and asks you for help. Is that a good thing? That was uncalled for. Unacceptable. Such a nuisance," Ayeka, who had been drinking to her hearts content, became drunk off of high grade sake. Ryoko's face became filled with rage from Ayeka's chagrin.

"Ayeka! You should be ashamed of yourself. Ms. Ryoko, if you please," The Empress was trying to save her daughter from embarrassment, who had become like a rat in a trap.

At that time.

"Hot spring?" Mihoshi asked with a sigh. "The bamboo hot spring…….?" Mihoshi suddenly burst into tears. "Mmm, Tenchi. I, I, I love Tenchi. If we could go on vacation again, I'd like to go back to the bamboo hot spring……. I would be so happy. He didn't confess his love to me, my heart is broken," Mihoshi slowly stopped crying as Kiyone, who was sitting next to her, wiped away her partners tears with the sleeve of her uniform.

"There, there, Mihoshi. Tell you what!" Marshall Kuramitsu was concerned by what he saw so he placed his hand on his granddaughters shoulder. "Hey. I don't think you're a blundering blockhead. It must pain you so as I'm sure you wanted to make that special person your own," Mihoshi firmly hugged Kiyone.

"Not I. Because I live to work. Kiyone, let's live pure, clean lives. If you don't allow it I'll do it before you."

"Wait just a minute. I never made such a promise……."

"You're saying you don't want to? Such a cold hearted person."

"Mihoshi, don't you think he might be mine?" Ayeka raised an eyebrow out of anger.

"Hahaha, that is unacceptable. Hey, Ayeka. Look, I doubt that Tenchi's chosen to be with you. I already decided that Tenchi's my lover. Right, Tenchi?" With a look of malice on her face, Ryoko looked at Tenchi.

"Yes….."

I'm cooked. If I'm fried tofu, and Ayeka is a Black Kite*, then what in the world is Ryoko? A Bald Eagle?

"Lord Tenchi. How could you say such a thing? Say something!"

"Uh, Tenchi you idiot. Idiot, Idiot."

"Ayeka! What's the matter with you? Did you even take his feelings into consideration before you asked him to marry you?"

"Tenchi! Did you try and deceive my daughter….."

"Heh heh heh, Emperor of Jurai. Tenchi has chosen Ryoko" The rage is spreading. This is the first law of rage. The confusion is spreading. This is the second law of chaos. In this current state of confusion, bloodshed may erupt.

*Black Kite is a bird-of-prey that consists of several subspecies around southern Japan.

"Wait. Everybody, listen to me. Dammit, listen to me!!" Tenchi involuntarily shouted. In an instant the fighting stopped. "I'm only sixteen years old. Why do I need to decide on such an important issue like marriage now? Ms. Ayeka is Ms. Ayeka, and Ryoko is Ryoko. I just have to stop and listen to my feelings. Mihoshi, and Ms. Washu. I might be indecisive. However, I love them all, but choosing just one is an impossible decision. Please, don't direct this at them, blame me. Since I'm so useless I should just leave the house!" Tenchi stopped talking to breathe.

"Emperor of Jurai. I'm sorry. But, believe me. I never laid a finger on Ayeka, and I never made a proposal for engagement. I don't dislike Ayeka. But, even though I'm not the kind of person who understands love and marriage, I think it's something that needs to grow naturally over time. Please understand."

"Tenchi……" Ayeka stared at Tenchi dumbfounded. "Heartless…… Didn't you say that you would protect me? I yearned for you, lord Tenchi…….. I thought only of you, lord Tenchi….." Tears swelled up in Ayeka's eyes. "Coward!" Ayeka stood up and ran off like a startled rabbit.

"Ayeka?!" As the Emperor of Jurai shouts, Ayeka thrusts away an Imperial Guard protecting the front door of the temple, and ran out. "Selfish daughter!" The Emperor of Jurai took the opportunity to chase after his daughter.

"Your Majesty, it's dangerous!!" As soon as one of the men said that, a knife went flying towards the Jurain Emperor, hitting him in the upper arm which caused him to turn around with a startled look on his face.

"You!"

At that moment the Empress of Jurai took action with her voice.

"Everyone, get down!" Before anyone present knew what was what, everyone threw themselves down as a man wearing the clothes of a Jurai Royal Family employee's head exploded. The body, holding a knife in one hand and two in the other, took three steps and collapsed in front of Tenchi.

"Who is this?!!" Following Chief Kuramitsu, Galaxy Police detectives jumped up and produced their blasters. Naturally, Mihoshi and Kiyone surround the Emperor of Jurai to strengthen the defense.

"Your Majesty! Are you hurt?" Imperial Guards rushed over. Pete appeared from behind and he pulled out his special heat blaster .

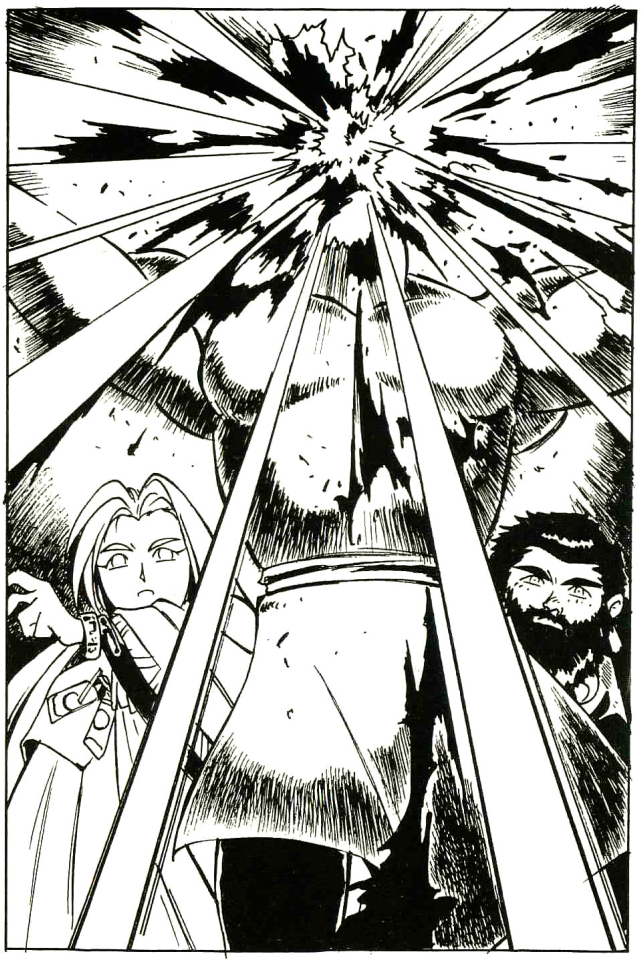
"This is not good. This is the family cook. Why in the world…" Said the Emperor of Jurai, staring in a daze at the headless corpse in front of him. Pete stood over the body, shaking his head with a grim look on his face.

"Your Majesty. This person was controlled like a puppet. I do not understand what possessed him, but whatever it was has escaped. Please be careful."

"What was possessing him? Who is it?" The Emperor of Jurai quickly asked again.

"He had an evil spirit in his body. A soul like that lingers even after its left its body. Something suitable for Kagato," Pete looked up at Tenchi. "The person that it possessed didn't seem very strong. Is this where the evil spirit stays? The guy ran away very fast. By the time anything could have been done it was already too late" Pete rose, visibly worn out. "Doing it to people who are alive is easier. If you destroy the brain, it's over. This evil spirit has no distinct shape. The moment it gets a hold of the brain, if it isn't fixed, you won't be able to escape it. This man was unfortunate." The Emperor of Jurai turned his eyes away from the corpse.

"Is this the action of a rebellion member?"



"It could be so, perhaps. It's impossible to get in here by any normal means. Because of that, it had to think of some trick like this. Although, it could be the opposite. If the evil spirit is still around it could have possessed others and made them its minions," Pete put his blaster in the holster and beckoned for an Imperial Guard.

"Excuse me, would you dispose of this damn thing? It is no danger anymore. There's no need for any further examination." The summoned Imperial Guard grew angry.

"There's no reason for me to take orders from the Galaxy Police. Who are you? Are you not a detective?"

"Stop it. This man is the Divine Response Warrior," The words of the Emperor of Jurai startled the Imperial Guards.

"You……? The dog of execution?" Upon looking at his face the mean looking imperial guard backed off.

Divine Response Warrior. The Jurai Royal Family's right hand man, known as the Hound of Death, is known to very few people who know this truth. Because…… the young guards listened to different peoples various rumors they were reminded of them.

To see the true form of the Divine Response Warrior, meant instant death. It has no family. Even if his parents exist, he was taken away from them immediately and placed in a training school.

……All emotions do is hinder his duty which amounts to nothing more than being a corpse. Naturally, instead of falling in love, he is driven by psychology. They took his emotions and used them for their own

purposes. He chases after his enemies and kill them. This dog dealt in death. No one's ever seen his shop.

You are a monster with no feelings and warmth. Don't come near me. I haven't done anything wrong.

It's useless to think about it. He's in front of the Jurain Emperor. The guards know that in this situation their lives could come to an end. It's too soon, go and disappear.

If the big dog tries to catch you, run…….

Pete's lips became distorted. Pete looked deep into his heart and he understood that the guards lives were in his hands. He hated it. However, it couldn't be helped. I know that the induction technician is a freak just like me, and so does everyone else.

"It seems we greatly underestimated you," upon hearing Pete's words, the guards began to tremble as they looked away.

"This is the reason that I left the Jurai Royal Family years ago. Divne Response Warrior, you're not the only person who can kill. I survived, and in much the same way as you, I was born with special abilities what I have honed. If you don't stop I'm going to finish you,"

Pete removed some tapestry from the wall and covered the corpse with it.

"Marshall Kuramitsu. Please, go back and be with Mihoshi. His Majesty, the Emperor, and their daughters, be with them too. The Jurian imperial palace is protected by a barrier. It is safe there." Tenchi was scared.

"Ms Ayeka?"

"I have to see her!" Mihoshi and Kiyone started running. Pete caught a glimpse of the two of them from behind.

"Chief. Please dismiss the guards and the press corps immediately. His Majesty would be most grateful. The fewer victims the better. I'm sorry, but the security guards and the imperial guardsman are of no use here." The Empress of Jurai held Sasami with a pale face.

"Are we going to be okay?"

"Let's extend the barrier," Pete approached the empress and whispered in a soft voice. "Empress, I know about your power. Ease your mind. Please block out the main temple to only the Royal Family. Can the barrier hold until princess Ayeka returns?" The Empress nodded. Pete bowed before leaving the Jurain Emperor and Empresses side.

"Your Majesty. I will go and search for her. Ms. Ryoko, will you come with me?" Pete grabbed the arm of a surprised Ryoko, who rose her voice in protest. "Your power is necessary. Do it for the good of house Jurai. Do it for the man you love."

The whisper struck the right chord in the heart of Ryoko. At that moment, Ryoko quit trying to shake his hand off of her.

"I'll go," Washu, who had not said anything about the situation until now, stepped forward. "I am that child's mother. I'll cooperate." Pete stared at the face of the genius scientist to evaluate.

"Thank you for your consideration. You…… no, stop." Pete looked down at Washu's face, puzzled, but before long a smile was on his face as he took Washu's hand and whispered. "Thanks. Professor."

Three people, Pete, Ryoko and Washu, left the Temple. The subordinates, with a commanding tone in their voices ordered all the guests out of the noisy temple, all while Tenchi stood there, staring into space at his wits end.

Is it the evil spirit? The Divine Response Warrior?

The first thing that came to everyone's minds were terrorists.

If I were a terrorist I would try to exterminate those of Jurian blood. That said….. The lives of Grandpa, Dad and I even being aimed at.

Tenchi suddenly remembered that he was unarmed.

What to do……. This could be a problem. Even if I can't protect myself, they may aim at Sasami and the Empress…..

Tenchi remembered Tsunami.

She said to believe in my power. However, how can I? That power cannot be awoken whenever I please. On the contrary, I don't even understand the method.

Tenchi made up his mind.

"Emperor of Jurai. Is there a substitute for the Sword Tenchi? I'm a little reluctant to get into a fight as I could die without it."

"Tenchi!?" The Jurian emperor called out orders to the captain of the guards who turned around upon hearing his voice. "Come here. I would like to speak with you" The Emperor of Jurai turned towards the captain of the guards and fired off orders with an intense expression. "Within 10 minutes from now, evacuate everyone to the teleporter gate. Evacuate immediately after you are done. So, go!"

When the Jurian Emperor turned around he grabbed Tenchi's arm and pulled him behind the curtains.

"I have to ask about what I heard. Word has it that you were the one who defeated Kagato. How did you defeat him? The Tenchi sword. It is tied to the destiny of the Jurain emperor. If you are who I think you are then the evil spirit is after you instead of Ayeka." The Jurain emperor stopped talking and looked at Tenchi.

"What do you mean?" The Jurian emperor questioned Tenchi's mettle. "Rumor is that you are the true imperial prince. However, I want to hear the story first. Do you know the spirit of Jurai's founding ship, Tsunami?"

Tsunami? She has something to do with the Royal Family?

At that moment, Tenchi began to truly realize that he was the heir to the Jurai Royal Family.

"There is no Ms. Ayeka"

"There is no Ms. Ayeka," Mihoshi, with a pale looking face, jumped into the temple where Tenchi and the others were. "What to do. Looks as though she's ran away from home. Aah, it's my fault. If only I had been more careful it wouldn't have turned out like this……"

"The full dress of the Jurai Royal Family was thrown off in her room. She appears to have gone out in everyday clothes," Kiyone said.

"Locate her!!" The Emperor of Jurai rose to his feet reflexively. "My daughter's on foot. She may not be too far away. Bring her back!" After yelling that, the Jurian emperor noticed the galaxy police detectives and gave them an order. "……Please, there is something I would like to ask you." Kiyone and Mihoshi looked at each other for a moment. The Emperor of Jurai bowed down to the mere detectives as he made his request.

The Emperor of Jurai, having lived for two thousand years, no one in the universe knows her better than her parents. However, that is all I can say.

"The family car has disappeared," Kiyone tried to say in as calm a voice as possible. "It's probably not around here anymore. Your Majesty. We are bound by the principals of the Galaxy Police. To go outside of the special field, permission of the council is necessary." As Kiyone paused to breathe, Chief Kuramitsu interrupted.

"It's a state of emergency. Special law is applied. Mihoshi. Detective Kiyone. Before looking for Princess Ayeka. Request reinforcements from the Police Station"

"But, Chief. The Special Protection Treaty……" Chief Anderson displayed a look of dismay.

If the princess of the Jurian Royal Family can't be found it will cause planet wide chaos. However, who would persuade the emperor of Jurai? Is his daughter's body in danger?

"I'll go!" The voice of Tenchi pulled them out from their conflict. "This happened because of me. I said some very inconsiderate things to Ms. Ayeka……"

"No, Tenchi," The Emperor of Jurai interrupted. "Your behavior was fine. One could be under the impression that my daughter was being selfish. I am sorry."

"Dear……. that girl of ours doesn't have a ship, and we can't leave the attendants alone," The Empress grabbed her husband's arm.

"Tenchi. You don't have to go if you don't want to." The Emperor of Jurai gave Tenchi a solemn look. "In the fight with Kagato, it's been said that you used the Light Hawk Sword. And still, you don't know the summon technique or to know how to control it."

Tenchi was startled.

Why did the Emperor of Jurai want to talk about the fight with Kagato in detail?

"The Light Hawk Wings are the Jurai Royal Family's strongest technique. They draw their energy from the spirit of the original ship, Tsunami. There is no medium like the Sword Tenchi. According to the prophecy, the blood of the chosen one is key to withdrawing its power," The Emperor of Jurai held his hand to the brow of Tenchi, and recited in the ancient Jurai Royal Family's language. The mark of Tsunami emerged from Tenchi's brow.

"Prince. I feel it. We are tied together by blood. If you get out of the barrier, if the evil spirit controls you, you could destroy the entire family."

"I……." The Jurian emperor lowered his head. At that time, the mark disappeared.

"The Light Hawk Wings have the power to cut a ship in two, even in Kagato's energy neutralizing field. Without proper control over it, this planet could be destroyed. Tenchi, no, Prince. For the sake of the Jurai Royal Family, it is necessary to protect you." The Empress raised her head.

"You! Ayeka……"

"It is said that people in this country who are 20 years old are considered to be adults. Ayeka would be exactly 20 if the time she spent asleep in Ryu-oh is excluded. That girl is no child anymore. It is her responsibility to behave herself. Furthermore, she is the first imperial princess of house Jurai" The Emperor of Jurai shot a glance at the firmly shut door of the temple. "..... Even if the child comes back, we can't go and greet her. We don't know the extent of the evil spirits power, and for all we know she could have fallen victim to it. The shadow of silence fell. Everyone heard those words. No one was able to speak.

Suffering sadness and anger alone, Ayeka ran out. The image of her being controlled and having her appearance changed by the evil spirit came to mind. Now the only thing they could do was pray. The evil spirit found its sacrifice. God that reigns over the universe, protect the princess.

"I will go," Mihoshi quietly walked forward. "Ms. Ayeka is my valuable friend. With lady luck on my side I'm sure I'll find her. Hey, Kiyone," Kiyone was not ready to reply right away. She knows the princess's potential. She can create shock waves with her bare hands. If she has been possessed by the evil spirit then their blasters are useless.

Mihoshi and I would be vaporized in an instant if we took a direct hit from a shock wave. Even Mihoshi should be aware of that…….

Mihoshi approached Kiyone and gently grabbed her arm.

"Bye. Kiyone, your scarf looks beautiful" Mihoshi looked at Kiyone's lavender colored scarf and smiled sweetly. The look in her eyes was as though she was trying to tell her something.

It looks good. For the first time, Kiyone listened to my advice.

"Wait!" Kiyone grabbed Mihoshi's arm in order to hold her back.

"It is beautiful. Do you plan to go alone? I won't let you do anything without me there! There's no one else that can call me their senior officer. What? Only a cold hearted person would say such things." After she was done yelling, tears began to stream down Kiyone's face.

"Oh my, Kiyone, calm down. I made it back from Kagato's ship alright. I thought about the possibility that I might not make it back. Believe me. God would not take Ms. Ayeka away from us. That time when Tenchi disappeared I knew that deep down in my heart he was still here. I was sure that the prince of planet Jurai would return……" Mihoshi looked at Kiyone's face.

"You'll go, just like that?" Kiyone bit down on her lip and swallowed hard.

Mihoshi is so utterly optimistic. Does she seriously think I'd let her go by herself!?

In the silence, Kiyone cast her eyes down towards the ground, but she then blinked her eyes, stopped shaking, and stayed quiet for three seconds, after which the senior detective raised her head and smiled.

"Mihoshi. You've forgotten the basis on an investigation. You can be alone when we get back home. Aren't we a team? We'll do it together. I swear to the God of the Galaxy Police!" Looking at the face of Kiyone, Mihoshi knew it was pointless to say anything further.

"Come on!"

After all, Kiyone, you won't listen to a thing I say.

"Mihoshi!"

"Yes……"

"Swear to the God of the Galaxy Police!" The two of them smiled at each other as joined hands, they then turned around to face Marshall Kuramitsu.

"First Class Detective Mihoshi!"

"And, First Class Detective Kiyone! The investigation begins now!" The two persons gave a dignified salute, walking over to the sealed door. Suddenly, Sasami burst into tears.

"Ryo-ohki? Where is Ryo-ohki?" Sasami buried her face in the Empress of Jurai's chest and sobbed. "Everyone's gone. They left Sasami behind"

"That's not true, Sasami" The Empress of Jurai embraced Sasami, stroking her small shoulder. "Your mother is here. And father. Ayeka will come back. Don't concentrate on the evil spirit!" Mihoshi held her hand against the temple door, glancing back.

Even here, there are those that still cling to their belief in God.

"Sasami. Wait. Everything's okay. Your big sister's safe" With a radiant smile on her face, Mihoshi left. The glow that she had, began to spread to the others.

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Ayeka took Mihoshi's sweater, mini-skirt, and jacket before she grabbed the car's steering wheel and drove down the prefectural highway. It was not Tenchi's father's station wagon from when everyone went to the hot springs, rather it was a white passenger car that Nobuyuki usually took to work. White passenger cars were

commonplace. Mihoshi bought those clothes after she arrived here. No doubt she's worried. Although she'd never done it, driving the car was not too difficult. It resembles a machine used in a game on Jurai. Ayeka had competed with the machine-loving Imperial Guards many times. Compared to those high performance machines, the car's response time is slow, which is wearing on her nerves. There was ample time to think. There is little car traffic. Ayeka decided to take the bypath towards downtown. There was a detailed road map of Okayama Prefecture in the car's glove box, scattered amongst other pieces of paper. She only looked at the map to identify the location that she needed, and after that she put it away, not to look at it again.

After calming down from her fervent rage Ayeka began to feel drained. She didn't want to remain there any second longer. Such desires drove Ayeka on, however there was a part of her mind that felt strange, she then calmly changed clothes and began to search the dresser with a full length mirror for the key.

Using the air conditioner, Ayeka felt unusually cold. No, it's different. It isn't cold. She feels helpless. A woman of the Jurai Royal Family is supposed to wear clothing that reaches the ankles. You may think it's no big deal, but she's not supposed to show her feet in public. Since Ayeka was currently sitting on the seat, she looked down at the mini skirt that went just below her butt. Somehow, it's a strange feeling. Revealing her leg, it felt like the Princess' shackles had been removed.

Stockings, ridiculous. I think I would prefer being barefoot. Do all of the women on earth dress like this, I wonder?

The face of Tenchi, as he plainly rejected her in front of her father and mother, came to Ayeka's mind. Ayeka felt like becoming angry, but she no longer had those intense emotions. Instead, the feeling of sadness came over her. As the sadness began to quietly overtake her, it felt as though her nerves had become paralyzed as a result.

Where will I go?

Ayeka thought to herself.

It would be best to forget about the whole thing. Drinking sake should let me forget everything in this gloomy mind.

A light from downtown has come into view. However, the store seemed to be closed. Ayeka, nearly unconscious, stopped the car on the side of the road, got out and began to walk in the dark towards the town.

Why? Why does my heart keep feeling so cold and empty?

Behind her, a shadowy apparition appeared. The shadow swayed back and forth, following closely behind Ayeka as she set foot into one of the stores. In succession, Ayeka and the dark shadow descended down the dark stairs.

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Around the same time, Pete was walking near the Shinto shrine followed by Ryoko and Washu. While walking they had the net of the Divine Responder Wave stretched in all directions, searching for a sign of the evil spirit. Some of them felt suspicious as they passed under the gate. It is natural. The evil spirit disappeared as to avoid detection, however, without fail, it began to watch for someone else to possess. Pete looked back upon the Masaki Shinto Shrine. The shrine was wrapped in the blue aura of the barrier. Although it is not visible to a human of this star system, Ryoko and Washu can see the barrier. Therefore, that is why Pete brought these two along. If there is an energy reaction no one from this planet would be able to sense it. Even though Ryoko is not a Divine Response Warrior or possesses his abilities, they will be sufficient enough.

Ryo-Ohki followed quickly behind them. She's a computer unit with memory, and high speed regeneration. From what Washu's said, if you bring all the necessary parts together it is made. It is a living spaceship. In an instant, she can go from being a small cabbit to a huge spaceship. A decent amount of energy is required for the transformation to occur, something to the equivalent of a super nova explosion. Perhaps that energy is borrowed from a different dimension. The gems attached to Ryoko's wrist seemed to be some kind of energy conversion device. Beyond that everything else was way over Pete's head. However, so much can be said. If Washu made Ryoko and Ryo-ohki, her skill far surpasses the state-of-the-art science of various regions of the Space Alliance.

It's impossible to say without further clarification that the power of the Jurai Royal Family and the Light Hawk Wings are the same. Almost all life-forms call it the power of God. From Pete's point of view it was only a matter of time until he reached the heart of the matter. It is possible that higher dimensional beings exist in the other 10 dimensions, and they choose to come and go as they please.

Washu is close to it. Ryoko is the dummy.

Although he is not certain, when he tried to look into Washu's heart he could sense it.

This thing is not of this world. They are near the evil spirit's form. It exists beyond the dimensional wall. The normal laws of physics don't apply. But, why is such a thing in such a place?

Pete thought it similar to asking god about Raison d'être* and gave up pressing for an answer.

These two are not enemies at least. If they turned into the enemy then the spirit has possessed them. That should be satisfaction enough. Just by looking at these two girls, it doesn't seem as though they are higher dimensional beings.

Pete grew tired of walking around, so he stole a glance at Washu while Ryoko was examining the surroundings with a cool look on her face.

I wonder if we'll see it in the same spot?

The Divine Response Warrior is being quiet and reserves as to not attract attention to itself.

Naturally, it is called a very professional demeanor. Even a telepath *(The boy called Tenchi is able to understand the Divine Response Warrior)* because, after all, there is an exception to every rule. He's always joking around while at work even with his life on the line such as talking about chewing on an insect. If such a thing happened the girls would runaway. For example, Mihoshi. Instead of focusing on work, Pete thought about Mihoshi's warm smile.

Mihoshi…… Your smile glows like the morning. Whenever I'd wake up, ah, you'd be there and you would be the reason that I'd be able to survive waking up the following mornings and stop feeling so dreary. Coffee and cereal for breakfast in the morning. I wouldn't have to say anything because your smile would say it all. It would be so nice if you were mine and I could stop being a Divine Response Warrior.

Pete was immersed in a daydream unbecoming of a Divine Response Warrior. In his mind he's reminded of his friends mocking him and calling him second rate. The ridicule caused a wave of unpleasantness to rise within him, it first started out as being unpleasant and then became unbearable. At that moment. Suddenly, the image of Ayeka pierced his mind. The figure of Ayeka walks with a vacant expression. The scenery of the road, and the opening to a wide ravine in the background.

Damn it!

"Ms. Ryoko, Ms. Washu, please come here!" Pete shouted.

*French expression meaning "Reason for Existence"

"What is it this time? Did you find something?" With a displeased look on her face, Ryoko approached.

"Princess Ayeka is in danger. I was thoroughly deceived. The evil spirit is not here. It's somewhere else, trying to possess the Princess."

"You were deceived? What do you mean?"

"No, it's different. I've underestimated his power. It made a copy of itself near here while the real one left and hid. It's probably been attached to the princess all along. It can use its energy to possess people from afar. It must have guided the princess away from here. I sensed it just now. It clearly intends to show itself," Pete's face was distorted with anger and frustration. "It's a town. In the northwest direction. I saw a light and a shop sign. The stairs go underground. I don't know what's after that. I have to stop……." Pete looked up.

"Ms. Ryoko, won't you go? We may not be in time anymore. But, only you can expel the evil spirit."

"Eh?!" Ryoko abruptly remarked, staring at Pete in surprise.

"Ryoko. Only you can go and do it," Washu stepped forward. "I don't have the power to fight an evil spirit. When you were made I entrusted the power to do so to you."

"What?" Ryoko was puzzled.

This person……. Washu, what does she mean? Mother said I was made.

"You don't need to know. You have your role. If I say, the future will change. It will disappear. You, this Universe, even Tenchi," Washu smiled pleasantly. "Now go and do it. There's nothing that says you can't do it. You're the only one who isn't useless when it comes to this task. This is such a terrible thing that's happened." Ryoko was upset with Pete.

"..... I of all people have the worst luck." Ryoko rose, rubbing her lower back, glaring at Pete. "Damn, so I really have to bring Ayeka back? Fine, I get it. I'll go." Ryoko thrust her fist toward's Pete's face, abruptly disappearing.

"I wonder who she takes after?" As Ryoko disappeared, Washu stared up into space and began nonchalantly walking. "So, go on. I will be busy from here on out." Pete felt strange, and in his confusion he began to follow Washu as if he were her own child.

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Ayeka was inside the shop which had almost no other customers, she then decided to silently poured herself a glass of sake. As she was pouring the sake, a man sat next to her. She had a bad feeling about this middle aged man. Yet, his face……. she couldn't get an impression from his face. She also couldn't remember when the man sat down next to her. It is because of intoxication. Ayeka drank the sake up, making a noise when setting down the glass.

"Miss. That's not good drinking manners," The man laughed. "It's very refined. Did you not like it? So, you came here all by yourself?" The glass was filled with Sake again. "Were you rejected by your lover? He is a foolish fellow, to reject such a beautiful young woman like that. Speak. Don't you think it would be better lighten the load on your mind? What's your name, miss?"

".....Ayeka," Ayeka grabbed the glass, drinking it in one gulp. "Such a thing is inconsequential. I came here individually to forget. Name, the house, everything."

So, I want to be far away from everything.

The face of Tenchi can be seen in the distance. Her father, mother and Sasami too. Ayeka thought it would be best to separate from all of them.

I would like to remain alone. I want everything to disappear.

What is she saying, as this isn't how Ayeka acts today. Ayeka grew reluctant about everything suddenly, trying to rise from her seat, staggering violently.

"Oops, it's dangerous," The man stood up quickly and propped Ayeka up. "Are you drunk? You'd better rest a while. Let's go to the shop of my acquaintance. Can you walk?" While saying this, the man was dragging Ayeka, walking towards the exit.

"Let go," Ayeka felt frightened as she didn't understand why she was being dragged along, so she desperately struggled to get away. The inside of the shop rolling over violently. Ayeka was thrown against a wall, then the man proceeded to man then got on top of her. The man's face looked like the devil. Sensing it isn't entirely human. Across from Ayeka, the man's skin began to separate, but there was nothing inside, he was empty. A cold wave began to seep from the man's body.

This is not a human being. Similar to Kagato, but different. It's formless. Such a frightening power. A man eating monster?! But, why me? Surely this is this all in my head…..?

Ayeka suddenly became aware, already too late. She heard a double layered, harsh sounding voice in her head tell her to get naked.

Your body, your mind, promising, no doubt. You and I will become one. Now, open your legs. Open your mind…..

"Stop," A shock wave was released from the hand of the frightened Ayeka. As the upper body of the man exploded, the cold wave entered Ayeka, her mind going blank in an instant. As Ayeka's spirit lost consciousness the evil spirit's conscious took over all aspects of her body. In no time it reached the nervous system and gave new commands to the body. Once the evil spirit possessed Ayeka she looked back upon the dead man and briefly smiled a smile of victory.

~.~

"Kiyone, can you go any faster?"

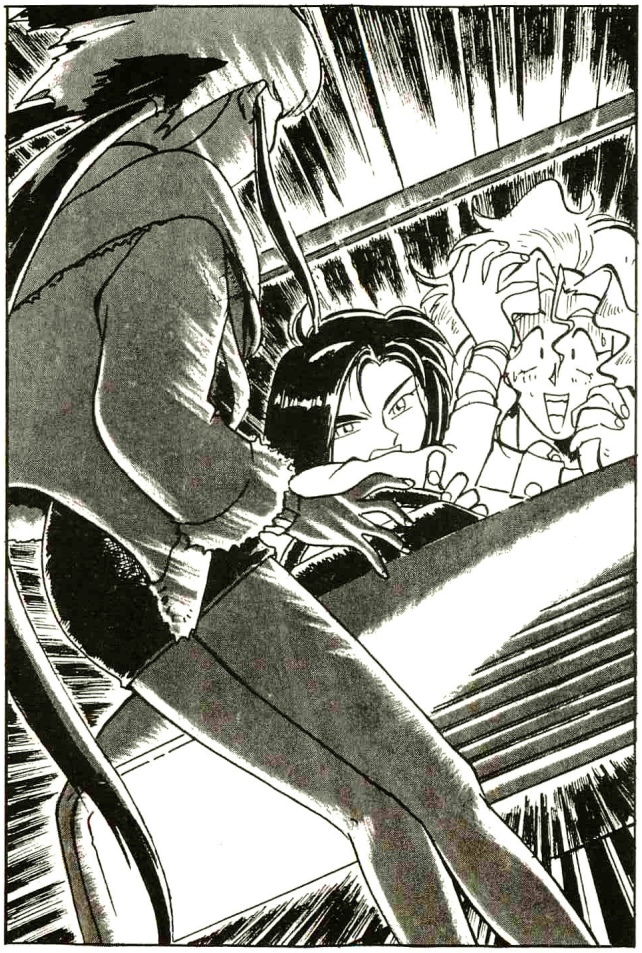
"If I speed up beyond this, we'll get arrested by the cops of this planet! It would be a funny story if members of the Galaxy Police showed up on the evening news getting caught red handed for speeding," Plainclothed Kiyone shouted from the drivers seat of the borrowed station wagon.

"Well, I have absolutely no idea where we're going. I have no doubt that being so late in the evening she'd be heading this way," Similarly, Mihoshi ducked her head into some civilian clothes.

"I was going to ask you, what's the basis behind that?" Kiyone starred, glaring at Mihoshi's face, and she didn't take her eyes off of her until she received a response.

" Ki, Kiyone, ahead, ahead!"

"It's okay. I'm driving and I can see it just fine, I'm not blind. Other than that, are we really supposed to go this way?" While saying so, Kiyone noticed the light from an oncoming car, before turning her head.



"Hmm….. Even though we don't know the way, I have a hunch."

Kiyone, at last, exploded.

"There's not enough time. What would we do if Princess Ayeka was being attacked? Something more extreme could happen compared to what happened to the cook. While were out here driving around the Princess has probably been possessed by the evil spirit!"

"If you say so……." Mihoshi stopped and tried to think of something good. "Run, run, that's what my heart is saying. That, and were going towards the lights of town……."

"Evening moths?"

Kiyone, overwhelmed with anger, struck the steering wheel of the car with her fist, sending the car meandering for a moment.

"Wa, hey, I'm driving……" As soon as Mihoshi said that. Through the front glass of the station wagon, it was hard to believe what was seen.

"Mihoshi…… It's the Princess. The Princess……" The figure of Ayeka stood out in the headlights. Kiyone instinctively slammed on the brakes and turned the steering wheel. A passing car sounded its horn as the station wagon struck the guardrail and came to a stop. Ayeka began to float in midair, and when she did she scoffed at the two of them as she went over the windshield and disappeared.

The detectives got lucky.

However, it was as though Ayeka's voice caused the two of their minds to freeze. Kiyone, in a daze, stared into space for a while.

Already, it's useless. We didn't stop. We lost.

Shaken by a strong force, Kiyone regained her composure.

"What are you doing? Go after it! Tenchi and the others are in danger!!" Mihoshi looked at her with a serious expression. There was nary a little bit of defeat in her voice. "So. That's right. Go back!"

Kiyone skillfully turned the car around and drove down the road. They are two to the best detectives. Kiyone was amazed by the toughness of Mihoshi. She's acting as though the disturbance of the evil spirit was nothing. Kiyone regained her composure.

"Mihoshi, he possessed the Princess. But, that can't be all. There must be some reason behind it. The princess was unharmed."

~.~

Ryoko materialized near the town, and in her mind she heard Ayeka's spirit crying out in fear, so she then realized that she was too late. The evil spirit had taken over Ayeka's mind. She's wary of chasing her now. If that's the case, then going in ahead is not an option. Ryoko assessed the situation. The spirit decided where it would go next. The main temple of the Masaki Shinto Shrine. The evil spirit will certainly exterminate the entire Jurai Royal Family Bloodline by any means.

"Tenchi!!" Ryoko exclaimed. Tenchi was onboard Ryu-Oh when the Soja destroyed it with its main battery. Among the remains of Ryu-Oh she found the blood stained towel that Tenchi had wrapped around his head. When Ryoko remembered that moment a chill ran down her spine.

I don't want to think about that, never again. Even though it's Ayeka, the evil spirit would kill Tenchi and everyone else if it came close to them.

Ryoko became so overwhelmed with anger that she had reached the point where she wanted to kill someone, but she then teleported away. Ryoko reappeared in front of the main temple, but she was so impatient that she forgot about the blue barrier surrounding the area. At that moment. A terrible shockwave attacked Ryoko. The shockwave was bounced off the barrier which caused it to cut right through Ryoko's body. If it were a normal human being, it would have disintegrated her down to the molecular level. Ryoko tried to teleport to escape but her powers were gone, so she fell to ground and was then kicked.

"What a fool," She said. The evil spirit, with the face and figure of Ayeka, looked down at Ryoko. "You can't fight in your current state. Besides, even if you could I am inside your partner after all," Ayeka rose into the air with the look of malice upon her face, and she then laughed. "Die. Just shut up and die. After all, you're nothing more than an energy conversion device. The fact that you're still alive annoys me greatly. Take off that womanly shape and return to your original form. I will help you."

Ryoko felt her body begin to fade. Her arm that had no gem disappeared. She tried to get on her feet but when she looked at her foot everything below her knee was gone. With this, it was not possible to move. The arm that she had planted on the ground began to fade, but then her gem began to shine brightly. It isn't her intention. The gem, the energy, she knew it was trying to absorb them. A voice like a beast's surged from Ryoko's throat.

Different. This is a hallucination. Ayeka should not have such power.

However, her field of vision is fading, her voice was been stolen, and she is in the process of losing all five senses. Ryoko became fully aware of what was going on so she cried out in fear.

"Tenchi! Help…… I, I'll disappear!!"

It's trying to absorb me to get the gem. The evil spirit which has possessed Ayeka is going to erase my consciousness and use my power. Tenchi…...help me. I need help……!

"Ryoko!"

I thought I just heard Tenchi's voice. Tenchi is coming to help me. I can see him running.

Ryoko tried to hold out her hand but she then noticed that it disappeared causing her to sink further into despair. It was just a hallucination. The hallucination was created as a result of her desires. When Ryoko lost sight of it she began to cry.

I'm so foolish, I can't see anything. Nothing can be heard. Already, it's useless…… I'm falling apart…….

~.~

Suddenly, the figure of Washu appeared. Somewhere, on an unknown star, they are looking down on them as though they were newborns. From both sides, two persons are standing. One of them was the spirit of the first ship, Tsunami. The other…… has an unfamiliar face.

Jeweled brow.

Transparent green pupil.

"Let us bestow power to this person," It is the voice of Washu.

"In the name of I," The composed voice of Tsunami.

"Then I, am the heart. In time, this person will come to know your love and will protect you," The three voices unified.

"Wake up. Ryoko. In the name of we, the three goddesses."

~.~

Suddenly, all of her senses returned. A Light Hawk Wing got between Ayeka and Ryoko. His silhouette was glowing from the light being emitted from the Light Hawk Wings…….

"Tenchi!!" Noticing the voice of Ryoko, Tenchi turned around.

"Quickly, enter the barrier of the temple. That is on longer Ayeka. It cannot pass through the barrier."

"Do you think so?" Ayeka flew down gently and approached. With a wicked smile expressed, Ayeka approached Tenchi. "Your valuable Princess Ayeka is sleeping inside of me. I am Ayeka. This mind and body are mine," Ayeka raised her hand and pushed Tenchi away. It obscurely took blood from its hand. "Foolish…" The brightness of Tenchi's Light Hawk Wings faded.

"You arrogant monster, have you ever thought about the people that you consume?" Ayeka turned towards Tenchi.

"Now that I'm inside Ayeka I can sense that she's been hiding her true feelings. You don't know anything. My power is not of this world. I create new power. Caught in this form I have new power." The hands of Ayeka passed through the barrier and pushed the main temple door open.

"Wait!" Tenchi snapped and went after it. At that moment.

"Die, evil spirit!" With a yell, the Emperor of Jurai swung his sword down onto Ayeka's head. From inside the main temple several overlapping screams could be heard, and for a moment Ayeka disappeared.

"Ayeka," Tenchi ran into the temple and looked around the vicinity. There was no appearance of Ayeka anywhere. It has disappeared.

Emperor of Jurai, is this the huge power of the Light Hawk Sword? Or did the evil spirit use its power to escape…...

"Emperor of Jurai! Ayeka." The Jurian emperor shook his head that was covered in blood. At that moment.

"I killed my daughter..."

A mocking voice was heard from the air.

"Emperor of Jurai. Is her life not so valuable?" The figure of Ayeka appeared over the two of their heads. "Had I not teleported the princess would have died. Do you still not understand? I am keeping the mind and body of the Princess. Emperor of Jurai. If you're so willing to give up an important family members life then I will hold onto the princess and keep her safe. This body is fresh and beautiful. I've already taken your power. However, your continued existence is a hindrance." The air around Ayeka began to darken. "That's right. Once you die. You'll be easy to reconstruct." That was a frightening thought that came from the thing controlling Ayeka's body. Rather than using a blade of death this thing is planning on using it's Dark God like powers to put everything in a frozen darkness.

That wicked person is going to use its power to wipe out the light of everyone's consciousness. Jurian emperor, Azusa. Empress Misaki. Marshall Kuramitsu and his subordinates.

Tenchi knew that they too would disappear. He didn't know if even the Light Hawk Wings would be capable of blocking it. This is no ordinary energy wave. Ryoko can't attack with a Divine Wave.

"Argh……." Tenchi was still desperately fighting for his life. His anger was the only thing that kept him consciousness. Tenchi regain his composure, and with his Light Hawk sword he slashed at Ayeka's figure in the darkness.

"Ayeka, come out of there! According to your desire you want to win" Ayeka lightly laughed.

"Tenchi. I want you to become my prince. So dark." The energy that was at the center began to wriggle around as if it were alive, and then Ayeka began to let out a wicked laugh. Upon hearing that, a chill enveloped Tenchi's body causing him to feel frozen. Simultaneously, his Light Hawk Sword disappeared.

Mihoshi and Kiyone came running up the steps of the shinto shrine breathing hard, and upon entering they noticed that the appearance of the main building was funny. Instead of the barrier darkness covered the main temple.

"Mihoshi!" Mihoshi was stopped in the middle of running by Pete whose face was pale. "Don't go. Don't, there's nothing we can do. That thing is an evil spirit. It is darkness itself. Don't you understand? It has a terrible, vicious mind." Kiyone, with her blaster in one hand, placed the other one on Mihoshi's shoulder.

"I'm going. We aren't Divine Response Warriors. We have to accept that."

"To erase everything. Any consideration for those inside had almost disappeared. Eventually even here will be pulled into the darkness. The Metastasis gate. I'll go. If we summon the Divine Response Warrior he could possibly seal it away. They use a certain physical method that could do it. There's someone who must be warned about all this. If we just wait here we'll just be captured."

"No, I'll go. Tenchi is in there. Grandpa too. I don't want to disappear. Even if I'm alone I want to help," Mihoshi took out her blaster. "I'm a detective. Even if I don't have a way to deal with it I won't run away. I'm warning you," Mihoshi stared at Pete and cracked a smile. "All I can do is distract the evil spirit. Besides, I believe in Tenchi's power."

"....." The look of violent conflict floated to Pete's face.

Don't go! If you go you'll just cry out in defeat as soon as you get there. You'll be killed. We're different from the Royals that are inside there. Dying in vain.

However, before he began to say that, Mihoshi smiled preventing him from speaking. His words would have had no meaning.

Mihoshi. I…… in truth, I want to run away with you and get away from this place. Even by force. I would have already done so if I could!

Pete looked down, biting his lip hard. Kiyone spoke in order to comfort him.

"Pete. Blaming yourself won't do any good. I know you have every intention of going. However, I'm surprised that you're the Divine Response Warrior. How unfortunate. I'm sure you've got various interesting stories to tell." At that moment, an angel whispered in his ear.

"Do you pray to the Galaxy Police God?" Pete looked up in surprise. Pete looked into the blue pupil of Mihoshi, which reflected the sky. Without saying anything, Pete firmly grasped Mihoshi's hand. Kiyone rarely smiles, however a gentle smile appeared on her face as she watched.

"Okay, go. Mihoshi." Mihoshi nodded in agreement, and then turned around. Pete silently saw the two of them off, and he then quickly walked towards the metastasis gate.

I was a second-class Divine Response Warrior after all.

Pete began to feel depressed.

I'm too sensitive to be a second-class Divine Response Warrior, I'm more like a second class man. She is a First Class detective. Too beautiful for someone like me. How Comical. A Second Class Divine Response Warrior, falling in love with a First Class detective…….

Pete arrived at the metastasis gate, but before taking one step further he looked back on the main temple.

"Son of a bitch! How is it interesting if only I survive?!" Pete turned around and followed the two of them.

Anybody who would take that smiling face away from me, I'd kill! Even I have enough power to knock some

sense into Ayeka's head. Neither my pledge nor the alliance to the Jurian Royal Family matters here. I must be Brave,now, to battle!

He entered the darkness.

~.~

The door of the main temple opened with a bang, Mihoshi, Kiyone, and Pete entered and then split up to the left and right.

"Evil spirit! Let's finish this!" At the center of the main temple, Ayeka turned around and Mihoshi and Kiyone opened fire with their blasters. Their line of fire was blocked by a barrier resulting in none of their shots even grazing Ayeka.

"Tenchi, are you alright?!" While picking Tenchi up off of the floor of the temple, Mihoshi checked for Tenchi's pulse.

He's alive. He's just unconscious.

Remembering something, Mihoshi checked her clothes .

"Oh, I. I've left everything in the pocket of my uniform."

"We're Detectives. You're so incorrigible!" Ayeka fired a shock wave towards Kiyone. Kiyone avoided it by a hair's breadth.

"Move aside. Don't interfere." Ayeka grabbed the shoulder of Mihoshi, carelessly flinging her towards the wall of the temple. Mihoshi violently struck the wall, collapsing and falling unconscious.

"Eat this!" With a yell Pete shot a heat beam, hitting Ayeka directly in the head.

"Fool. I've read all about second-class Divine Response Warriors like you." Ayeka turned her uninjured head as her body body was wrapped around a pillar. "You're an eyesore. Before getting rid of the Detective, I'll get rid of you. I'll give you a death suitable for a Divine Response Warrior. Now I'm going to blow your head off." Ayeka tightened her body and shot a Divine Wave.

Pete's hand began to rise up against his will. The muzzle began to face him little by little.

It is not good. The opponent's power is too strong, I can't defend myself.

The finger on the trigger became stiff. Pete's blaster trembled as the creature, with it's black mouth wide open drew ever closer to him.

This is not good. I cannot win. Very soon. If I make a noise I'll be killed. In the old days I used to be one of those immoral criminals.

Pete was prepared for death.

I'm sorry, Mihoshi…… I am no longer of any use to you for the role that I played…….

Pete closed his eyes. No one saw the figure enter of a person enter from the shadow of the open door. The supple cat like figure vanished and the reappeared near the comatose Tenchi, and upon re-appearing next to him the person picked Tenchi up in their arms.

"Tenchi. I'll give you some of my energy! Open your eyes!!"

Ryoko. Wrapped in her battle uniform, Ryoko hugged Tenchi closely, placing her brow to his, sending him energy. Ayeka, in her terrifying form suddenly turned around and then disappeared. The Divine Wave suddenly went astray, freeing both of Pete's hands.

"You came, Ryoko. That's unnecessary……" While speaking, Ayeka materialized close to the two people. "The prince's suffering would have ended in his sleep. However, it's no use. Since he's still alive I'll just fuse with him. I hope it hurts as you watch me draw out and consume his consciousness!" Ayeka's hair began to move and stand on end. "Move! Ryoko!!" In the darkness the figure of Ayeka could be seen raising her hand and aiming towards Tenchi.

"I won't move!" Ryoko raised her hand that hand the sparkling gem on it. In that instant, the gem cast a tremendous amount of light and then shattered. At the point of impact Tenchi regained his consciousness. Completely losing her energy, the body of Ryoko collapsed before Ayeka.

"Ryoko!!" The Light Hawk Sword returned to the hand of Tenchi. Then, at that moment, all idle thoughts left Tenchi's mind. "Aahhhhhhhh!" Then, Tenchi jumped over Ayeka, swinging the Light Hawk Sword down.

"Fool!" The evil spirit realized it had underestimated this boy. There is no doubt. Just as it had the light itself. The light penetrated every corner of the main room. With this, it vanished…… The evil spirit tried to escape the body of Ayeka at that moment. The Light Hawk Sword tore up the darkness. The light and dark energies completely offset each other.

~.~

Silence returned. The Light Hawk Sword disappeared from Tenchi's hand. Without realizing, Tenchi calmly knelt down and lifted the body of Ryoko. Ryoko's body was cold. The whole body was cut up and scarred from the shockwave.

"Ryoko," he was unable to speak any further. Tenchi held the body of Ryoko tightly, his shoulders quivering.

What does such a thing mean? Ryoko, Ayeka, everyone has died. Everyone, they're all gone. Thus, I am the only one to stay alive. Why? Why on Earth?

"It's still too early for despair," The dignified voice of Washu was heard. "Prince of light. You did well." Tenchi raised his head, puzzled. Washu picked up Sasami and Ryo-Ohki and placed them in the moonlight coming from the open door.

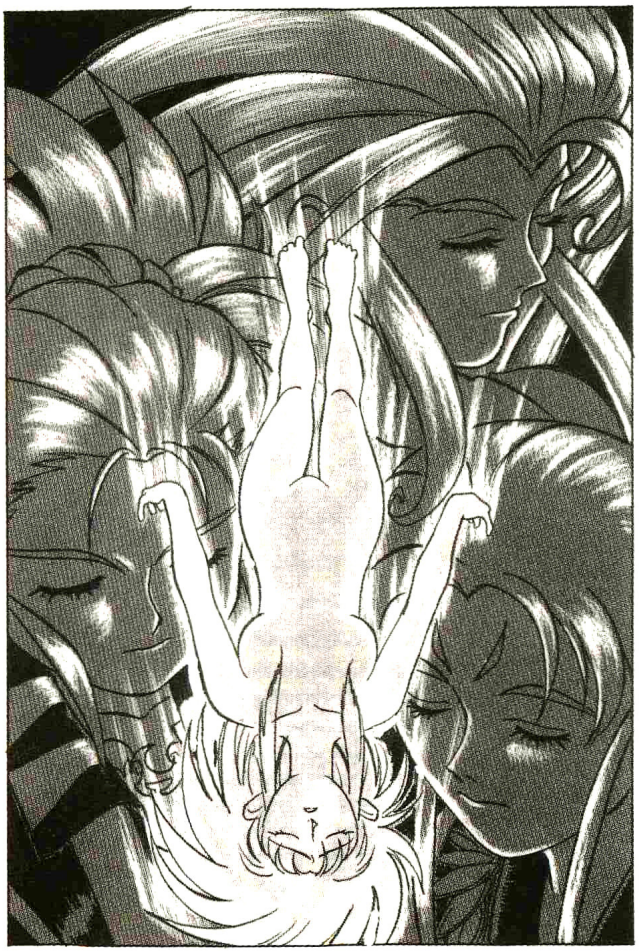
"The evil spirit has vanished. Their hearts are frozen, but they will return to normal."

"Ayeka. Ms. Ayeka?" Tenchi looked at Ayeka, who had collapsed, dead.

"Okay. In order for it to use that body it had to protect to keep it intact. It might take some time before they wake up. However, rest assured, they will wake up," Washu, expressing a smile, looked down at the sleeping Sasami in her arms. "I protected this child. She was still too young to inherit the power of Tsunami."

"Tsunami? Aren't the Light Hawk Wings part of the power of Tsunami?" Washu gently set Sasami down, touching her finger against Tenchi's brow.

"You may not yet be aware. You may not truly understand until the time of awakening." Washu, with a huff, looked down on Tenchi who was still holding Ryoko in his arms. "Foolish child. However, you were



great." Ryoko's body left Tenchi's arms and began to float in the air.

"Now, call them back!" Washu yelled and extended her hands. "Come. Power. Thou who have been named, bestow upon them your spirit" Two beautiful women appeared beside Washu. One person was Tsunami, and the other was a mysterious woman.

"Washu. Tsunami. Tokimi. In the name of we three Goddesses, resurrect their spirits from the Valley of Death." Ryoko's body was wrapped in a dazzling light. She opened her lips and inhaled her first breath. Her chest began to move up and down. Ryoko began to slowly descend, and while being enveloped in the light her gem was restored on her arm. Tenchi was unable to breathe or blink while watching this amazing sight. Somebody's warm finger quietly touched Tenchi's face.

"Forget. Everything you've seen here. Now, erase it all. Inside you is a Prince." Tenchi's eyes closed. Like a baby embraced in the peacefulness of it's mother's chest, Tenchi's whole body was soaked.

You may sleep already. The spirits of the dead have been healed.

Washu. Tsunami. And Tokimi. That person? What more can I say. Isn't Ms. Washu a gifted genius scientist? She is Ryoko's mother after all……. Tsunami is the spirit of a ship. But, Ryoko…… What is Ryoko? Come to think of it, the evil spirit is still clinging to Ayeka…….. And, did I kill it? The power of Tsunami, The Light Hawk Sword. I feel like there was someone else. The jeweled brow. The transparent green pupil. That person? Was it all a dream? Well, alright. If I wake up, surely I will remember. Til then…… It's warm inside the darkness……

I, Tenchi, woke up in my bed.

I, Tenchi, woke up in my bed. I felt like I had been soundly sleeping for a long time.

When Tenchi opened his eyes he was on the futon.

There is someone next to me. Also, it is a woman.

Tenchi timidly raised up from his Futon, becoming speechless.

"Ryoko!!" Ryoko woke up to the voice.

"Tenchi." Ryoko smiled, wrapping her arm around Tenchi's neck and drew him closer. "Give me a kiss."

Foolish! This is a dream. It has to be!

"I'm waiting." Tenchi's arm was forcibly being pulled by Ryoko which resulted in the bed being flipped over. "Now I'm tired of waiting," Ryoko pulled on Tenchi's arm.

"Ryoko, wait. Wa!" Tenchi lost his balance and fell on Ryoko. In that moment.

"Good morning!" With a cheerful two person duet the door was opened.

"Tenchi, how…… oh my!!" Detectives Mihoshi and Kiyone clasped their hands together and paused.

"What's wrong? Oh my, what on Earth?" From behind these two people, Ayeka showed her head and saw what those two saw. "Kyaaaaa!" Ayeka threw aside Mihoshi and Kiyone, and stepped on opposite side of the bed. "Lord Tenchi! What on Earth is the meaning of this? Please give me an explanation so I can understand. Why is that monster woman here?"

"What? Why are you being so loud," Nobuyuki came out from the next room and looked into the room of Tenchi. "Oh……." His father unintentionally smiled.

"Hi Dad. You're back early. Now, this is something that you thought you'd never see in your life. Tenchi and Ryoko are naked….."

"Yes? Tenchi, Ryoko, what did you do?" Katsuhito came out of the second floor restroom and went into Tenchi's room and he flipped up the bed that was hiding the two of their lower bodies.

"What? You two might want to put some underwear on. How silly." Saying that much, Katsuhito quickly walked out.

"Older brother Yosho. How vulgar. Since when did you become such a character??" Ayeka roared with a red face at her brother's back.

"Ayeka. What are you doing? Your father called a little while ago!" The Empress of Jurai, Misaki, and the Emperor of Jurai, Azusa, grew impatient and walked up the stairs.

"What is all this commotion? Where is Ayeka?" The two people looked into Tenchi's room, and both became petrified and at a loss for words.

"Emperor of Jurai. The plans for the future……" Director Kuramitsu, Chief Anderson, and Section Chief Nobeyama, holding official documents, hurriedly ran upstairs. They too were at a loss for words, and so they began to walk down the stairs, bumping into Pete in the process.

"Pete. You'll regret seeing this. You don't want to bother them right now."

"Huh? What? Who is it?" Pete flew up the stairs.

"It's a misunderstanding!!" Tenchi screamed, and upon hearing it, Washu looked up from the first floor. "I didn't do anything! I don't have a guilty conscience because I didn't do anything wrong!"

"Why would he feel guilty?" Sasami, eating a mandarin orange, looked into the face of Washu.

"No, it's nothing, Sasami. You just stay here with me and be a good little girl"

"Aww, no! I'm not a child anymore!" Sasami took offense, and quickly took the carrot that Ryo-Ohki was eating.

"That so? Please explain. Ryo-Ohki?"

"Mya~~!!" Ryo-Ohki's eyes moisten, and raised its voice in protest.

"Gee, what a surprise that was." Nobuyuki came down the stairs and found the two of them sitting on the sofa and he sat across from them. "Ms. Washu. If they have a girl can we name her Achika?"

"Girl? What's that?" Sasami leaned forward. Nobuyuki looked at Washu and realized his slip of the tongue.

"Well, Sasami. Achika is Tenchi's mother's name. She was Grandpa's daughter, and she was a very beautiful person……"

"Who's that? That person, are they my niece? Where is this she now?" Nobuyuki sighed, got down on one knee, and put his arms up as he called Sasami over to him.

"Well, the flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and she's flying high, high up in the sky with them."

"I understand! Near the Jurian Imperial palace? That person? That's strange……"

"Shall I tell you a different story? There was an old man and an old woman. The old man went to the mountain to gather wood, while the old lady was doing laundry in the river……"

Washu smiled with a whiff.

I feel like I've erased a little too much of their memories. Well, whatever. After all, peace is the best thing in this small world of Okayama.

Washu began to doze off while listening to Nobuyuki talk about "Momotaro"*

Then, outside of the Masaki house…… The guardians of Ayeka, Azaka and Kamidake, who were serving as substitutes for the gate posts, were enjoying a peaceful chat.

"Come to think of it, we didn't show up at all this time."

"That is right. Whenever it's peaceful like this we always get forgotten."

"I guess they always forget because they're all so busy."

"That is right. Thanks to this peace we're able to talk like this."

"What, you think they're always so busy?"

"That is right. From the second floor, an uproar can be heard. Isn't that usual?"

"Usual?"

"That is right. That it is. Look, it's princess Ayeka and Ms. Ryoko……."

*Momotaro is a Japanese folktale about a boy who came to earth in a peach and was discovered by an old woman washing clothes in a river, who later raised the boy with her husband.

"Mr. Tenchi……"

Every morning they could be heard talking like that, they would even read the newspaper and talk about professional baseball and pro sumo wrestling. The two of them finished their conversation by talking about the sky and how nice the weather was.

<"Tenchi Muyo! Ryo-Ohki!" One Visitor After Another: Hexagram Of Love - The End>

Postscript

How do you do? I'm Hasegawa, and I wrote the script for episodes one through six of the "Tenchi Muyo" OVA. I'm happy to tell you that this "Tenchi" book has been published. This was my very first novel. *(Um… because it's being published by Fujimi Shobo, famous for the Dragon Lance series, my heart is… just too full for words!)*

Looking back, a lot has happened.

Two years ago when I joined the project as "Tenchi's" scriptwriter, a rough draft had already been made by the director, Mr. Hiroki Hayashi, and the producer & character designer, Mr. Masaki Kajishima, and the first episode's storyboard had already been created. I thought about inserting funny situations into the storyboard as a joke. I wonder what on Earth the future will hold…….

Actually, things didn't quite go as originally planned starting at episode two as there was a big argument over it, however after that everybody came to an agreement and it became the story that you now know, which are lots of other side stories taking place the main story. I intend to pick up the story from there, anyway, I want to make it a fun to read romantic comedy (mixing in my own feelings as well).

After you finished reading this first novel didn't you find the main character Tenchi to be excessively miserable? Changing a person's personality that they were born with is not so easy. Have you ever wondered why Ayeka and Ryoko fight so fiercely? Don't you think that there would be something wrong if these two became friends? Mihoshi had too much good luck, don't you think? Well, your humble author has a profound love for Mihoshi, so much so that there may have been an unfair distribution of love given. *(Just look at what became of poor Ayeka)*

Kiyone is a new character. Pete too. Thank you for being a part of the story. I was thinking about the consequences adding these characters would have. Of course, as an author I know writing stories only for ones own pleasure is wrong….. *(You could call them people that don't think)*

And, say, before I leave this postscript, I'd like to take this opportunity while I'm allowed to express some words of gratitude to those whom I am indebted to.

Director Hiroki Hayashi. Thank you for the enjoyable illustrations. He is extremely talented with drawing and music, and his character you could say is not unlike Mihoshi, as he is a very lucky guy.

Masaki Kajishima, animation director, character design and draft proposal. Sorry for asking so many questions, but I was busy with the final story. Let me tell you an inside story…..

One day, when I was working on the second half of the story I was sent a new illustration. The illustration included emperor Azusa, empress Misaki, and the higher life form, Tokimi…..

Hasegawa: "Kajishima-sensei, who is this higher life form, Tokimi?"

Kajishima: "Oh, this? She's a goddess. There are three goddesses in this universe, Tsunami, Washu and Tokimi are the goddess trio.

Hasegawa: "Huh……? *(I knew of Tsunami before, but I was hearing about Tokimi for the first time. Washu? Wasn't Washu a genius scientist??)*" I turned pale.

Hasegawa "I've already written half of the novel. This three person trio, is that nonsense true?"

Kajishima "*(plainly)* Correct!"

Hasegawa "..... Is that so? *(I didn't know about this)*"

Kajishima "That's right!!"

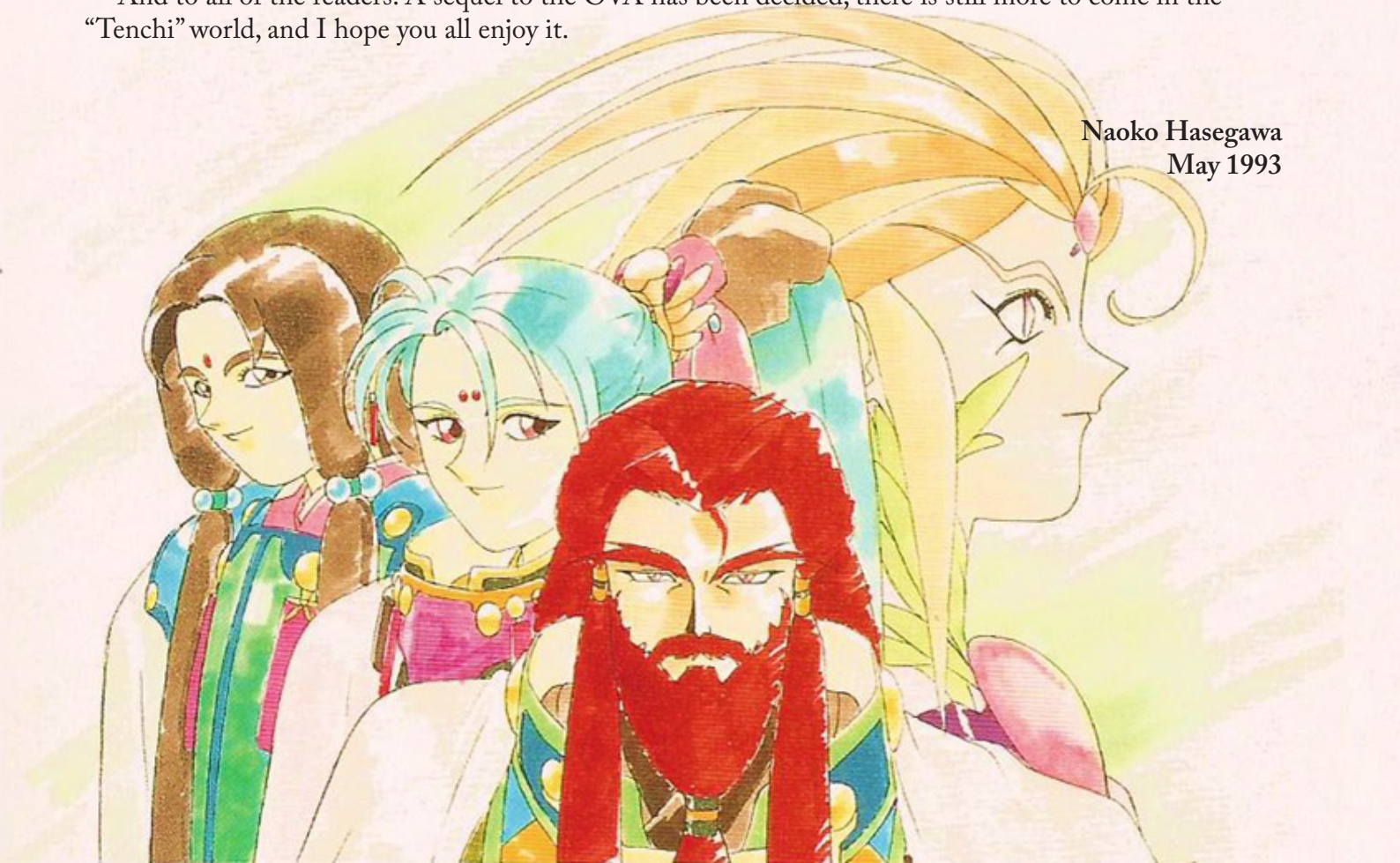
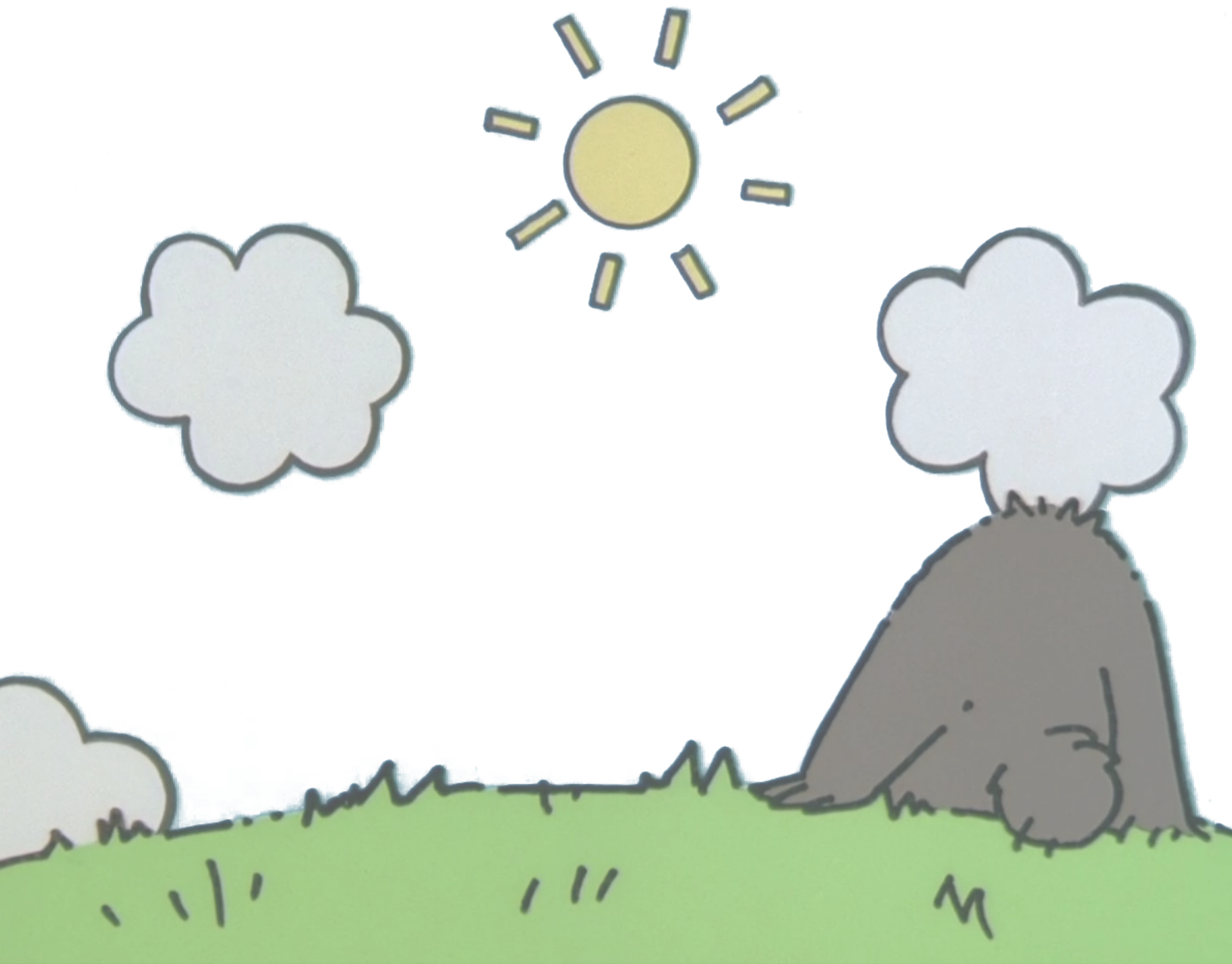
Hasegawa "*.....(I was worried. What am I going to do for the second half!?)*"

That's what it's like to work with Kajishima! As Always, thank you for turning around and offering advice on Tenchi. Thanks for helping me understand the absurdity of the gods. Well, if you look at it this way he is the person who made the "Tenchi" world, so it's no wonder he knows everything…….

Lastly, thank you to the editor in chief's Mr. Yasuda and Mr. Moriyama for giving me the chance to write this novel. One time you told me a funny story about someone being splattered while having their molars removed, and another one about someone being strangled to death by a vengeful spirit when I had to go to the dentist. *(Right, Mr. Moriyama?)*

And to all of the readers. A sequel to the OVA has been decided, there is still more to come in the "Tenchi" world, and I hope you all enjoy it.

Naoko Hasegawa
May 1993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